



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: SUNY University Faculty Senate Student Life Committee
RE: SUNY-wide commencement policy when announcing the names of those students who hold current United States military rank at their commencement ceremony
DATE: 179th Plenary, April 20-21, 2018
LOCATION: University at Buffalo – Marriott Buffalo Niagara Hotel
RESOLUTION #: 179-03-01
VOTE TALLY: 36 yay; 6 nay; 5 abstain

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS SUNY students who have attained a rank in our Nation’s military¹ should be honored at their graduation by addressing them appropriately.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor for transmission to all Presidents of state-operated campuses that all graduating students at state-operated campuses who hold a current rank or retired rank in our Nation’s military should be afforded the opportunity to have their military title included if names are announced to the audience at commencement or if names are included in a commencement ceremony program; and

BE IT RESOLVED that state-operated campuses should develop a method to verify proper military title, through required documentation (as listed below), consistent with campus processes.

BACKGROUND:

Many students who attend SUNY campuses concurrently serve in our Nation’s military. In addition, many SUNY campuses have Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) programs or have an affiliation with ROTC programs at other schools. SUNY students who are ROTC cadets generally commission in the military as officers shortly before they graduate. This resolution suggests a SUNY-wide policy towards recognition of proper military title among SUNY students who are serving in or have retired from our Nation’s military.

Required Documentation:

Students active or retired from our Nation’s military must show Uniformed Services ID card, Retirement order or DD Form 214. Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve students must show either a DD Form 214, 256, NGB 22, military CAC card or statement of service signed by, or by direction of, the adjutant, personnel officer, or commander of their unit which shows their date of entry. Commissioned ROTC students must show Oath of Office documents. ROTC students who have not yet been commissioned may be addressed as “cadet”.

NOTES:

¹ “Nation’s military” implies the United States military, to include the National Guard and Reserve.