

**TO:** SUNY University Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Governance Committee  
**RE:** Resolution on the Expectation of Non-Academic Professional Staff to Participate in Shared Governance  
**DATE:** 182<sup>st</sup> Plenary, April 11-13, 2019  
**LOCATION:** SUNY Potsdam  
**RESOLUTION #:**  
**VOTE TALLY:**

## **RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS** SUNY Board of Trustees Policy requires that campuses establish local governance bodies, the voting faculty of which can include both academic faculty and non-academic professional staff; and

**WHEREAS** non-academic professional staff directly support the academic mission of the campus, often teach and develop curriculum, hold advanced degrees in their fields, and possess invaluable knowledge of campus policies and procedures; and

**WHEREAS** individual campuses utilize a wide range of representational models, from dedicated Professional Staff Senates, through inclusion of professionals in a single Senate, to campuses on which professionals are not included in governance; and

**WHEREAS** many non-academic professional staff are not aware that they are represented by a shared governance body and of their options to participate in committees or run for election at either the campus or the SUNY system level; and

**WHEREAS** providing service to the institution is not a requirement of promotion for professional staff, yet knowledge and experience gained through participation in shared governance activity benefits the development not only of the individual but of the units within which they work; and

**WHEREAS** Standing Committees of the University Faculty Senate can benefit from the expertise of non-academic professional staff who serve as committee members.

## **RESOLUTION:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate requests that Campus Governance Leaders on each campus identify and inform their campus community of the manner in which non-academic professional staff are represented in local and state shared governance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate requests that the Chancellor ask presidents to develop campus policies supporting the participation of all non-academic professional staff in local and SUNY-sanctioned shared governance activity, such as release time or an option for inclusion of governance service as part of a performance program.