

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Governance Committee
RE: Resolution on the Expectation of Non-Academic Professional Staff to Participate in Shared Governance
DATE: 182st 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.