



The State University
of New York

John B. King, Jr.
Chancellor

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Keith Landa
SUNY Trustee
President, University Faculty Senate
H. Carl McCall Building
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Keith:

Thank you for sharing the resolutions adopted at the Winter and Spring 2024 Plenaries. I am pleased to respond as follows:

- **197-01-1 AI Tools for Research**

I want to thank the UFS for its ongoing engagement around the use of artificial intelligence. We continue to work in a collaborative way, including implementation of the recommendations of the STRIVE (STRategic Research INVEstment) Task Force on AI and implementation of Governor Hochul's Empire AI initiative to ensure that SUNY effectively leverages advancements in AI. Our shared goals are to achieve great progress while being vigilant. I am grateful to FACT² for its continued work to bring SUNY faculty together around AI, providing opportunities to openly discuss challenges, opportunities and best practices. Provost Ramasubramanian is working closely with the FACT² team to provide access to tools and information resources. With respect to students, I am excited about the incorporation of AI into the information literacy competency of SUNY's general education framework as a vital way of educating students about ethical and acceptable use. I am grateful for the leadership of the UFS and the FCCC, and the broader faculty community, engaged in this important work.

- **196-03-1 Addressing Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the SUNY Workplace**

I note that a number of campuses have already developed and posted on their websites policies and procedures related to the use of AI. As noted above, system-wide task forces and groups continue to navigate use of AI and make related recommendations. At the State level, the New York State Office of Information Technology Services is reviewing state policies related to or impacted by AI and how they may or may not apply to state agencies, as well as public higher education institutions. As these efforts progress, we will continue to assess the need for broader policy actions . If there are

revisions needed to existing policy or a call for new policy creation, this work will follow procedures for broad shared governance and campus engagement.

- **197-02-1 SUNY Cross Campus Research Support**

With respect to cross-campus research collaboration, the INSPIRE Center (Innovative Network for SUNY's Pioneering AI Research and Excellence Center), announced as part of the Empire Innovation Program and the 2024 State of the University policy agenda, will support SUNY-wide conferences on AI-related research and will be led by a faculty fellow under the leadership of Senior Vice Chancellor Sandvik. Other centers to be created, including SINAPSE (SUNY Integrated Network for Advanced Packaging Science & Engineering) and the SUNY Center for Community-Informed Health Equity Research are also intended to engage faculty at all campuses on both research and workforce development (197-02-1). This work can provide a template for additional convenings in other disciplines.

- **197-04-1 SUNY Research Communication Enhancement**

The *Research 360 at SUNY* newsletter is a fairly new but essential tool in increasing access to news about SUNY's great research activity. The publication, which can be accessed [here](#), including new reader sign-up, is part of a broader communications effort about SUNY research, and is disseminated not only across SUNY but to key external stakeholders including grant funders. Our GROW Support Unit – which supports campuses in identifying and pursuing large-scale research opportunities – is also an important resource. We are grateful too for the efforts of the communications team at the Research Foundation for SUNY in highlighting faculty grants and awards.

- **197-05-1 Basic Needs Resources Communication**

While I know that a formal response was not requested for this resolution, I did want to express my sincere thanks to the UFS for its willingness to partner on encouraging faculty to voluntarily adopt basic needs statements on syllabi. The more we can do to ensure that every student knows that there are resources on campus to help, the more successful they will be in reaching their full potential. I hope we can find ways to highlight examples from across our campuses as evidence of best practices.

- **197-06-1 Progress Report on the Financial Sustainability of State University of New York Campuses**

Financial and academic health go hand-in-hand, and they are all of our shared responsibility. I strongly support the work that campuses are undertaking, in collaboration with their shared governance leaders and other stakeholders, to ensure that they are leaning into their strengths, meeting student demand, and achieving operational stability. Because the work is campus-driven, campus leaders will often be the best source of real-time information – and I know they are continuing to work closely with their faculty, students, and other partners.

- **196-01-1 Ensuring Non-Discrimination, Enhancing Campus Inclusivity, and Supporting All SUNY Students, Faculty, and Staff**

I applaud the UFS for its clear statement that the body “abhors harassment, discrimination, intimidation, threats, retaliation, incitement to imminent violence, and actual violence, for whatever reason, against students or employees of the State University of New York...” Over the past year, I have emphasized that student safety on our campuses is paramount and that we will do everything we can to ensure that our campuses are both safe and inclusive. Our three overarching commitments are that: 1) We will not tolerate antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of discrimination and harassment. 2) We will build and embrace more tools to advance productive campus conversations. 3) We will help students from all backgrounds feel respected and seen. I hope you will review the Fall 2024 Campus Climate Fact Sheet that describes specific steps we are taking. In particular, I am grateful for the SUNY faculty and staff who joined the inaugural cohort of Civic Education & Engagement and Civil Discourse Fellows. We are so fortunate to have such resident expertise within SUNY. Please be sure to share that the Civic Fellows have established a new webpage with links to informational webinars being held this semester and that is also serving as a repository for related resources. I also want to thank SUNY’s faculty and staff for helping us fulfill our shared commitment to eliminating discrimination and harassment, by participating in mandatory training this fall on the responsibilities and protections under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- **196-04-1 Excelsior Scholarship Review**

Thank you for your assessment of the NYS Excelsior Scholarship program; I appreciate the care with which the white paper was prepared. As with any legislatively enacted financial assistance program, SUNY continues to be in contact with the Executive Chamber, Division of the Budget, and Higher Education Services Corporation about assessment and continued plans for improvement. We look forward to continued collaboration on this and other student support programs.

- **196-05-1 Opposition to Mandated Purchases from SUNY Preferred Vendor Corcraft Products**

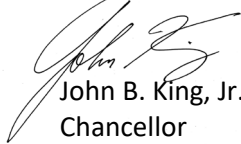
My thanks to the UFS for identifying areas and avenues for SUNY to continue its work in ensuring social justice is part of our everyday attention to serving our students, faculty, and staff. In the case of the preferred vendor list, as you are aware, there are certain limitations that we must operate under by being primarily a State-related entity under the review and approval process of the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC), and others. I have asked SUNY’s Office of Government Relations to monitor potential legislation in this area.

- **196-06-1 Process for Professional Staff Advancement**

This resolution supports the current SUNY/UUP collaborations addressing the review of SUNY titles for professional staff and requests work on this initiative be expedited. Please note that SUNY is committed to addressing these issues and is currently recruiting for the two positions that will be responsible for the review and updates of the titles and title series to accurately reflect duties, skills, responsibilities, and functions along with providing lines of promotion where appropriate. Associate Vice Chancellor Petti and Associate Vice Chancellor Zwicklbauer, meet regularly with campus Human Resources Officers and will remind them of the Memorandum of Understanding related to Systems of Evaluation and Promotion for Professional Employees as outlined in Appendix A-28 of the Agreement between the State of New York and United University Professions. Their respective offices will work with campuses to effectuate the ultimate changes in title and discuss local implementation.

Keith, thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,



John B. King, Jr., J.D., Ed.D.
Chancellor