



To: SUNY University Faculty Senate
From: Executive Committee
RE: Resolution Endorsing the Joint SUNY UFS, SUNY FCCC, and CUNY UFS Statement on Funding Public Higher Education
Date: 198th Plenary, October 24-26, 2024
Location: SUNY Plattsburgh
Resolution #: 198-05-1 without dissent Executive
Vote: For: 44 / Against: 0

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS the Executive Committees of the State University of New York University Faculty Senate (SUNY UFS), SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges (SUNY FCCC), and City University of New York University Faculty Senate (CUNY UFS) each voted to approve the [Joint SUNY UFS, SUNY FCCC, and CUNY UFS Statement on Funding Public Higher Education](#) on October 4, 2024; and

WHEREAS this joint statement builds on many years of SUNY UFS resolutions ([October 2009](#), [January 2010](#), [April 2010](#), [January 2015](#), [January 2019](#), [January 2020](#), [October 2021](#), [October 2022](#), and [October 2023](#)) and Executive Committee statements ([January 2016](#), [February 2022](#)) that are the product of joint effort with SUNY FCCC and CUNY UFS—and alliances with the SUNY Student Assembly (SUNY SA), United University Professions (UUP), and the CUNY Professional Staff Congress (PSC-CUNY)—in advocating for New York State to become *the* national leader in college affordability and in advancing the mission of public higher education; and

WHEREAS the [latest Rockefeller Institute of Government study of SUNY's economic impact](#) shows that in academic year 2020-2021 every dollar of state funding invested in SUNY returned \$8.67, that SUNY's economic impact was \$31 billion, and that SUNY was responsible for 157,600 direct and indirect jobs; and

WHEREAS the [latest Fiscal Policy Institute study of SUNY's economic impact](#) shows that SUNY was responsible for nearly 180,000 direct and indirect jobs in 2022;

WHEREAS SUNY and CUNY advance the public good by transforming our students' and patients' lives and future prospects and by serving New York State as anchors of community, catalysts for sustainable communities and ecosystems, foundations for democracy, platforms for civic engagement, engines of economic development, pathways to the middle class and beyond, magnets for population growth and private investment, generators of creativity and innovation, and seedbeds for health and human flourishing; and

WHEREAS SUNY UFS welcomes and applauds the record increases in the State Fiscal Year 2024 (SFY24) and SFY25 Enacted Budgets of \$277 million in state operating aid over SFY23; funding of a significant portion of negotiated contractual increases; continuation of funding for new full-time faculty and transformational funding; hospital debt service relief and other funding mechanisms that can benefit SUNY teaching hospitals; increase of funding for the Tuition Assistance Program, the Educational Opportunity Program, and other student opportunity programs; an endowment match for our university centers; and other special

programs such as the Empire State Service Corps, Empire State AI, and the further offsetting of fees for graduate student workers; and

WHEREAS increased recurring direct state operating support for each SUNY and CUNY institution—equitably distributed across geographic regions and sectors in support of system and the institutions’ missions—is needed to promote student access and success, to make SUNY and CUNY the world-class public higher education systems that they can be, and to super-charge regional economic and workforce development;

WHEREAS Governor Hochul has a historic opportunity in her SFY26 Executive Budget to build on those successes and make NYS *the* national leader in college affordability and in advancing the mission of public higher education;

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY UFS endorses the [Joint SUNY UFS, SUNY FCCC, and CUNY UFS Statement on Funding Public Higher Education](#); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY UFS charges President Landa to work with SUNY FCCC and SUNY System Administration leadership on Executive Budget research and advocacy with Governor Hochul and her staff and to help coordinate state and federal higher education advocacy efforts with SUNY FCCC, CUNY UFS, SUNY System Administration, and CUNY System Administration leadership; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY UFS urges Chancellor King to

(1) call on the New York State Congressional delegation to set an example of acting in the spirit of the [Labor for Higher Education statement of unity for the future of higher education](#) by uniting to maximize federal investments in SUNY and CUNY; expand student access to, and the affordability of, public higher education; and enhance working conditions and worker protections on every campus; and

(2) work with Governor Hochul to craft a SFY26 Executive Budget that makes New York State *the* national leader in college affordability and in advancing the mission of public higher education by increasing *each* SUNY and CUNY institution’s real-dollar recurring direct state aid; by developing a more equitable and differentiated system of tuition and fees; and by expanding eligibility for, increasing amounts of, and extending applicability of student financial aid, through the following means:

Direct State Aid

- increasing real-dollar recurring direct state operating support for *each* SUNY institution and ensuring that such support for each institution’s mission is equitably distributed across geographic regions and sectors, in keeping with SUNY’s mission;
- *fully* funding, on a recurring, annual basis, all negotiated contractual increases and other mandatory operating cost increases for all SUNY institutions, including SUNY hospitals;
- making further progress toward making *each* SUNY institution whole from the accumulated cuts in real-dollar direct state aid to their operating budgets since the Great Recession (including SUNY hospitals for the withdrawal of mission funding that predates the Great Recession);

Indirect State Aid

- fully funding debt service and fringe benefits for all SUNY institutions, including SUNY hospitals;
- further expanding financial aid eligibility for New Yorkers;
- further increasing financial aid amounts for New Yorkers;
- ensuring that all state scholarships and grants can be used on any cost associated with attendance at any SUNY campus;
- rethinking the parameters of the Excelsior Scholarship;

Capital Funding

- providing a multi-year capital plan to make each SUNY institution a safer, healthier, greener, and more accessible and engaging place to teach, research, live, learn, and work; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY UFS calls on all SUNY campus governance bodies—along with all friends and all other good-faith partners of SUNY and CUNY—to speedily pass resolutions aligned with ours, and in those resolutions to encourage their constituencies, in their capacity as citizens or residents of New York and/or supporters of public higher education, to urge Governor Hochul to make New York State *the* national leader in college affordability and in advancing the mission of public higher education in her SFY26 Executive Budget.

BACKGROUND:

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