



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

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New York, NY 10022

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April 2, 2025

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

Dear Trustee Landa:

Thank you for sharing the resolutions adopted at the Fall 2024 Plenary. As always, I appreciated the opportunity to engage with the UFS and its Committees. Requested responses to adopted resolutions follow:

- **198-05-1 Endorsing Joint Statement (UFS/FCCC) on Funding Public Higher Education**

My thanks to the UFS, and also to the FCCC, for your ongoing advocacy for SUNY and the students we serve. Engagement with faculty, staff, students and the SUNY Trustees is a key part of the work of every budget cycle. As you know, Governor Hochul made historic investments in SUNY in her 2025-26 Executive Budget. Building on the last two years of record increases, the Executive Budget includes an additional \$114 million in operating aid for our State-operated campuses to cover incremental costs of the State-approved collective bargaining agreements; the inclusion \$12 million in funding for the ASAP and ACE college completion programs, on the path to scale to 10,000 students within two years; \$550 million in critical maintenance capital funding and a \$200 million New York State Innovation Fund for capital investments in cutting-edge laboratory facilities and research activities; and a \$25 million SUNY Green Energy Loan Fund that will help transform SUNY's buildings to be more energy efficient; and critically needed investments in SUNY Downstate and SUNY Upstate. We look forward to continuing to work with Governor Hochul and the legislature on a successful conclusion to the budget process.

- **198-03-1: Recommendation for the adoption of the Okanagan Charter for Health Promotion in Universities and Colleges**

I applaud and share the ongoing commitment of the UFS to the health and wellness of students, faculty, and staff. Under the leadership of Senior Vice Chancellor for Health and Hospital Affairs Valerie Grey, staff in the System Office of Academic Health and Hospital Affairs attended the 2024 United States Health Promoting Campuses Network conference at the University at Albany this past fall where the Okanagan Charter was a featured topic. Senior Vice Chancellor Grey's office is working to create a new information resource for campus leadership designed to promote consideration of various wellness frameworks, including the Okanagan Charter, while being respectful of each campus's need to make such decisions in light of local campus culture and immediate needs. This is a resource that will be broadly shared, raising visibility of the Okanagan framework and similar program offerings.

- **Motion 1: Motion from the floor in support of University at Buffalo Faculty Senate Resolution Seeking Change in the SUNY Trustees’ Term Appointment Policies**

There has long been recognition and appreciation for the contributions made by those serving on a term appointment and the important role they play in advancing the university’s mission in teaching, research and service. Note, however, that any request to adjust the language in the Board of Trustees’ policies regarding the definition of term appointment, as well as renewal terms, is a matter of negotiation through the collective bargaining process. I have forwarded this resolution to Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Counsel for Employee Relations Liesl Zwicklbauer for her information and review.

- **198-01-1: Faculty Freedom and HyFlex Teaching Modality**

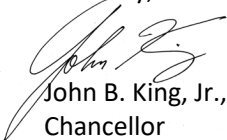
Although this resolution is directed at campus governance leaders, campus senators, and campus leadership, I wanted to acknowledge the concerns noted about hyflex teaching and to express my appreciation for the work on several campuses to navigate these challenges by ensuring the necessary instructional resources are present. As part of this work, engagement in professional learning opportunities about hyflex teaching, including those offered through SUNY Online and the SUNY Center for Professional Development, has proven beneficial. I welcome further study of hyflex as a teaching modality and its potential to increase access to a SUNY education. One point of clarification as this resolution is further distributed, is that the Board of Trustees’ policies define academic freedom as freedom for faculty to “discuss their own subject in the classroom,” and does not extend to matters such as instructional modality.

- **Resolution 198-02-1: Graduate Education Standards Workgroup**

This resolution suggests a new working group to promote best practices in graduate education as well as the sharing of research and scholarly professional development opportunities across campuses to broadly elevate SUNY graduate education. The work described is timely as we look to strengthen our graduate programs and move forward in response to Governor Hochul’s charge to SUNY to double its research expenditures. I have forwarded this resolution to Provost Ramasubramanian and Senior Vice Chancellor Hartley-Moore and asked that they reach out directly to discuss.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to SUNY.

Sincerely,



John B. King, Jr., JD, EdD
Chancellor

Copy: Executive Vice Chancellor Ramasubramanian
Senior Vice Chancellor Hartley-Moore
Senior Vice Chancellor Grey
Vice Chancellor Schwartz
Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Counsel Zwicklbauer