

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Operations Committee
RE: SUNY System Administration Mandate Impact and Offsets Statements
DATE: April 26th, 2025 (200th UFS Plenary)
LOCATION: SUNY Oneonta
NUMBER: 200-04-1
VOTE: For: 41 / Against: 3

RATIONALE

WHEREAS SUNY System Administration routinely issues unfunded and under-funded mandates to campuses for implementation, including but not limited to new transfer and prior learning assessment policies, general education revisions, and system-wide software contracts; and

WHEREAS SUNY System Administration mandates require campuses to dedicate time, personnel, and financial resources toward implementation; and

WHEREAS campus budgets are highly constrained, professional and academic faculty are meeting 100% of their professional obligations, and resources committed to new mandate implementation are often divested from existing campus programs and services; and

WHEREAS the implementation of SUNY System Administration mandates may require professional and academic faculty expertise, technology, specialized equipment, and/or dedicated facilities not available on all campuses; and

WHEREAS SUNY System Administration should demonstrate a recognition of the strain unfunded and under-funded mandates places on campus budgets and operations;

RESOLUTION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) requests that the Chancellor require SUNY System Administration to assess the impact of mandates on campuses and generates for each new or significantly revised mandate, an impact statement which includes an estimation of the time, human effort, infrastructure, and financial resources needed for its implementation; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate requests that the Chancellor require SUNY to generate suggestions for offsetting the time, effort, and financial costs associated with the implementation of each new or significantly revised mandate for campuses; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate requests that the Chancellor require SUNY System Administration to provide campuses with a campus resource impact statement, and suggestions for offsetting implementation impacts, with all new or significantly revised mandates.

BACKGROUND

Transfer and Articulation Policies and Guidance - SUNY System

Seamless Transfer was a top-down, system-wide directive implemented broadly and without consultation regarding varying campus capabilities. The memos detail curricular expectations but never mention additional funding, staffing support, or infrastructure enhancements to support compliance. Seamless Transfer illustrates how good intentions and goals can still result in structural strain and uneven impact if there are no clear systems for cost-benefit modeling, resource support, and ongoing feedback loops between campuses and system administration.

State University of New York General Education Policy - 12/17/2024

This memo from 12/17 clearly states the need for professional learning, curriculum development, and adjustments to the catalogues, and that this mandate demands time, personnel, and infrastructure not uniformly available across all SUNY campuses. Yet the memo does not indicate financial support or institutional offsets for implementation. Civic discourse and AI education address urgent societal and technological trends that warrant priority implementation, but do not provide the support that values the necessity.

SUNY State of the University 2024 Policy Agenda

The agenda features interdisciplinary centers, new instructional programs, and the integration of AI across curricula without indicating how this work will be funded or staffed. Although this document intends to invite voluntary participation, system-wide Title VI and General Education updates imply universal expectation across all SUNY campuses. Even then, mention of historic funding is not specifically tied to the cost of mandate implementation or addressing concerns of increased expenses (e.g., inflation, enrollment pressures) facing SUNY campuses. System-wide policy directives issued without impact assessments or resource offset strategies will only stress the campuses that deal with the operational reality of implementation.