

**Resolution of the Professional Staff Senate (Executive Committee)  
In Support of the  
Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act**

**Whereas** state support for the SUNY state-operated campuses has been cut by \$450 million over the past three years and the 2010-2011 Executive Budget recommends an additional reduction of more than \$140 million; and (*SUNY F/S*)

**Whereas** the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, has incurred a state budget reduction from fiscal year 2008/2009 – 2009/2010 of \$40 million, with an anticipated additional \$16.5 million budget reduction for fiscal year 2010-2011; and (*Janiece based on figures supplied to her*)

**Whereas** these reductions threaten SUNY and the University at Buffalo's ability to offer its students an affordable education of the highest quality; and (*SUNY F/S*)

**Whereas** the entire State University community comprehends, and is prepared to address, the severe economic challenges to the State and its system of public higher education; and (*F/S*)

**Whereas** the proposed New York State Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act (PHEEIA) offers high impact, zero-cost solutions that will build the foundation for a more robust economy, strengthen public higher education, and save millions of taxpayer dollars; and (*F/S*)

**Whereas** the proposed PHEEIA, along with the accompanying Comprehensive Tuition Policy and the Comprehensive Asset Management Policy; and (*F/S*)

**Whereas** the proposed PHEEIA would create an equitable and rational tuition policy through the General Tuition Rate, allowing for differential tuition by campus and program which would yield modest and predictable tuition increases, as opposed to the large sudden increases designed to help close the budget gap for New York State, and (*SUNY F/S & F/S*)

**Whereas** the PHEEIA provides protection from liability for students participating in clinical internships related to their field of study, facilitates hospital participation in joint ventures and managed care to provide health care related services, and eliminates burdensome and duplicative pre-approval of SUNY hospital contracts, including those involving real property transactions; and (*SUNY F/S & F/S*)

**Whereas** the PHEEIA will fund SUNY-Aid with a portion of the expected tuition increase to reduce the burden of these increases on economically disadvantaged students, and (*SUNY F/S*)

**Whereas** the PHEEIA would provide the ability to undertake land leases without special legislation for projects not in conflict with campus missions, to enter joint ventures and

public/private partnerships, and to eliminate burdensome and redundant pre-approval of Construction Fund contracts; and (*SUNY F/S and F/S*)

**Whereas** the PHEEIA facilitates the speedy and cost-effective purchase of materials and services,

**Whereas** these proposals provide the necessary flexibility, independence, and responsibility for the University at Buffalo in managing its finances more effectively in fulfilling its academic mission and its role in enhancing the cultural and economic vitality of the Western New York community, (*F/S*)

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the University at Buffalo's Professional Staff Senate endorses the principles of the PHEEIA with the additional consideration that the following five outstanding issues be addressed with due consideration by the Chancellor and her staff:

- The need to define Special Tuition Rate more precisely and provide a cap;
- The need to specify the inclusion of faculty and professional governance in the campus decision making processes that will produce recommendations for both tuition rates and/or public-private partnerships or any associated land leases;
- The need to ensure that the oversight of public-private partnerships require adherence to all relevant environmental laws and to best environmental practices;
- The need to ensure that all rights and benefits of collective bargaining in the current labor contracts be extended to all future negotiated contracts; and
- The need for a commitment on the part of New York State to a future level of funding that would constitute a continuing, maintenance of effort.“ (*SUNY F/S*)

**Resolved** that the Professional State Senate at the University at Buffalo, on behalf of the entire Voting Professionals at the University at Buffalo vigorously supports the proposed and urges the New York State Assembly and Senate to act swiftly and without reservation in passing this Act; and be it further (*F/S*)

**Resolved** that this resolution be forwarded directly to: David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York; Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor of the State University of New York; Sheldon Silver, Speaker of the New York State Assembly; John L. Sampson, Democratic Conference Leader of the New York State Senate; and John B. Simpson, President of the University at Buffalo; and be it further (*F/S*)

**Resolved** that this Resolution be entered permanently into the records of the University at Buffalo Professional Staff Senate. (*F/S*)

**Approved:**

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Janiece Kiedrowski,  
Chair of the Professional Staff Senate, University at Buffalo