



**TO:** SUNY University Faculty Senate

**FROM:** Operations Committee

**RE:** Recommendation on Broad-Based Fees

**DATE:** 177<sup>th</sup> Plenary at SUNY Delhi, October 19-21, 2017

**RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS** stagnant direct state financial support and increasing operating costs have led to increasing broad-based fees for student services, with an average increase of 24.3% from 2011/12 to 2016/17 (with a range from 15.9% in the technology sector to 17.0% in the comprehensive college sector to 41.3% in the doctoral sector and to 43.5% in the university centers sector)<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** financial aid, in some cases, is not sufficient to cover the cost of these fees; and

**WHEREAS** students and their families may view fees at SUNY institutions negatively and may therefore opt to enroll elsewhere<sup>2</sup>;

**RESOLUTION:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate recommend to campuses and campus leadership that broad-based fees be closely scrutinized to ensure the appropriate balance of addressing student services, fiscal need, and long-term institutional financial viability, student access, success, and completion; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that campuses work closely with SUNY System Administration to ensure that all broad-based fees are implemented and administered in line with appropriate policy and guidelines (See [SUNY policy document 7804: Fees, Rentals, and Other Charges](#), effective 9/20/11).

<sup>1</sup>Calculations by Operations Committee member, Dr. David Vitt, Assistant Professor of Economics at Farmingdale State College, identifies the rate of inflation from 2011-2016 for the average college student to be between 1.2%-1.58% based on Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) and compares this rate to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) which shows higher education prices increasing at an average rate of 2.04% during the same period of 2011-2016.

<sup>2</sup>Helmet and Marcotte (2008) estimate a tuition elasticity of demand for college that suggests for a given percentage increase in tuition, enrollment will fall by 0.1 times that percentage change in tuition. Increases in fees likely have a similar enrollment and revenue impact which should be considered.