

Resolution on Renewal of NYSUNY2020

Whereas, the New York State Legislature passed the NY-SUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program Act (NY-SUNY 2020) in 2011, which was signed by Governor Cuomo; and

Whereas, the NY-SUNY 2020 Act authorized the Board of Trustees to raise tuition incrementally and predictably, establishing a rational tuition plan for 5 years; and,

Whereas, the Act also obligates the State to appropriate operating funds from the State General Fund, each year during this five-year period, no less than the amount appropriated in the prior fiscal year, which has commonly been called a “maintenance of effort” provision; and,

Whereas, the Act sunsets at the end of the 2015-16 fiscal year; and,

Whereas, the State has not provided sufficient appropriations from the General Fund to cover increases in mandatory costs, such as negotiated salary increases, during this five-year period; and,

Whereas, the University Faculty Senate has, since January 2003, supported the notion of a rational fiscal policy as a cornerstone of State support for the SUNY System;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the University Faculty Senate of the State University of New York urges the New York State Legislature and Governor Cuomo to renew the NY-SUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Act through the 2019-2020 fiscal year with the three following interdependent elements:

Establishing a commitment to a true Maintenance of Effort by the State for the entire State University of New York System, whereby the State will maintain base funding at the FY 2015-16 and increase it annually by an amount no less than that necessary to meet increased costs of negotiated salaries, fringe benefits, and other mandatory inflationary costs;

Reauthorizing a rational tuition plan;

Renewing the tuition credit for TAP-eligible students by requiring that New York State allocate funds to cover the difference between resident undergraduate tuition and the maximum TAP award for those students eligible for the maximum TAP award; and

Be It Further Resolved that the UFS President is authorized to communicate this resolution to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees of SUNY and appropriate members of the State Legislature and Office of the Governor.