

Title: Resolution on SUNY's Need for a Public Statement of Ethical Values

To: UB Faculty Senate

From: SUNY University Faculty Senate

Date Proposed: September 28, 2016

First Reading to the Faculty Senate: April 18, 2017

Second Reading to the Faculty Senate: May 16, 2017

Approved by the Faculty Senate: May 16, 2017

Effective date:

Resolution on SUNY's Need for a Public Statement of Ethical Values

Whereas, The State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, with 64 institutions, including research universities, academic medical centers, liberal arts colleges, community colleges, colleges of technology and an online learning network; and

Whereas, SUNY's mission of education, research and service speaks to the need for individual choice and the needs of society, the enhancement of the well-being of the people of New York, the health of local economies, and the need for cooperative relationships with other educational and cultural institutions; and

Whereas, SUNY's Strategic Plan (The Power of SUNY) has articulated SUNY's commitment to a set of five core values to act as a guide in pursuit of its mission: student centeredness, community engagement, diversity, integrity, and collaboration; and

Whereas, SUNY's mission and the shared desire to increase the visibility and prestige of SUNY requires that we conduct our research, classes, athletics, creative endeavors, service and daily operations responsibly and ethically; and

Whereas, no entities within SUNY have a clearly articulated public Statement of Ethical Values; and

Whereas, such a Statement of Ethical Values would enable SUNY to move forward as a leader in higher education and provide greater opportunities to nurture the mutual values, traditions, virtues, beliefs, telos, and practice that exemplify an ethical university; and

Whereas, the development of SUNY's public Statement of Ethical Values should be

collaborative with representatives from all constituencies participating in this effort; therefore

Be it Resolved that no University at Buffalo employee with a fiduciary responsibility over New York state resources shall not make hiring or any spending decisions that will benefit them personally, whether be financially or professionally, directly or indirectly. Any such decision must be made at one level higher up or by someone who does not report to the said employee and by someone with no financial or professional benefit conflict of interest.

Be It Resolved that the attached public Statement of Ethical Values indicate the commitment of the University Faculty Senate to uniformly adopt and model these values and serve as a model for other SUNY entities currently without Ethical Values statements to develop and enact their own in accordance with the five core values of the SUNY Strategic Plan.

Sent for promulgation on:

Decision:

Statement of Ethical Values

The University Faculty Senate of the **State University of New York** has developed a set of **Core Values**. Our **Core Values** of *Student-Centeredness, Community Engagement, Diversity, Integrity, and Collaboration* underlie the work we do and how we interact with each other, students and our stakeholders. They articulate the basic elements of how we go about our work.

In addition, the University Faculty Senate of the **State University of New York** is committed to ethical and professional conduct. We are all responsible for conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards and to comply with all legal and regulatory requirements, policies, and procedures appropriate to their relationship with the University.

Among the ethical values to which we commit, and that underlie our ethical conduct, are: fairness, civility, character, respect, honesty, trust, transparency, and inclusivity. We strive to integrate these values into our teaching, scholarship, business practices, and daily interactions among all members of the University. The increasingly necessary relationships that have evolved between the University and outside entities, including but not limited to governmental agencies, community groups and business firms, require that we conduct ourselves in a manner that will withstand the sharpest scrutiny.

Fairness: In our relationships with each other, we are fair and just in our decisions and actions by carefully weighing the circumstances in an equitable manner.

Civility: We achieve an open working and learning environment when each community member feels secure enough to participate in the free exchange of ideas. We ensure an honest and supportive climate which serves the interests of the institution and protects the well-being of all individuals.

Character: In order to support excellence in learning, we act in the colleges' best interests. As a community dedicated to providing education, we demonstrate professional integrity and exemplary behavior in all that we do.

Respect: We demonstrate a high regard for the rights, diverse opinions, and lifestyles of all community members. It is our responsibility to establish a climate of mutual respect to protect the rights and freedoms of others.

Honesty: We demonstrate our honesty by being truthful with others, acting in good faith, responsibly; and with due care, competence, and diligence.

Trust: The development of trust relies on our ability to treat others equitably and in a non-exploitive manner.

Transparency: Transparency of process inspires confidence. In its simplest sense, transparency is a clear, unhindered honest way in going about the business of the University.

Inclusivity: A diversity of ideas, disciplines and people is valued. The university cultivates a climate and community where everyone has access to educational environments that feel welcome, equitable, valued, supportive, and safe. The university also strives to ensure not only access to entry, but support in ensuring equity of opportunity in all areas of the community.

SUNY is committed to maintaining a reputation for the highest ethical and professional standards of conduct. We rely on each community member's commitment to these values. Each member represented by the University Faculty Senate should operate in good faith, demonstrate respect for the rights of others, and must strive at all times to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct in all situations and all relationships.

These values and their descriptions are designed to be principles for SUNY agencies to consider when developing their own ethical values statements, policies, and procedures, and as such do not supersede or invalidate any existing documentation in any SUNY agency. This document is not intended to be used as a policy for compliance or enforcement.