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RESOLUTION 1617-64

TO: Members of the Executive Committee

FROM: The State Operated Campuses Committee

DATE: February 4, 2017

SUBJECT: Broad Based Fee Transparency, Regulation, and Shared Governance

Action Requested

The SUNY Student Assembly calls on SUNY System Administration and the SUNY Board of Trustees to regulate and oversee broad based fees, while requiring each campus to reserve a student voting seat on all fee allocation and oversight committees. Additionally, we request that SUNY System Administration require each campus to publish a publically accessible breakdown documenting broad based fee revenues, allocations, and expenditures.

Resolution

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

Whereas both SUNY and the Student Assembly have maintained a commitment to providing affordable higher education to students across the state of New York; and

Whereas despite efforts to control the cost of education, the average SUNY student graduates with \$25,250 of student loans, with broad based fees accounting for an average of \$1,590 annually, or \$6,360 over the course of four years at a state operated SUNY institution¹; and

¹ Cost of Financial Aid 2016-17. PDF. The State University of New York.

Whereas the cumulative cost of broad based fees accounts for approximately 25.2% of the overall student debt that is incurred as a result of obtaining a Bachelor's degree at a four-year institution; and

Whereas students have the right to know about the implementation of any new fees, how the revenues from each fee are being spent, and the justification for annual fee increases, as many fees are ambiguous in nature with increases that lack specific justification; and,

Whereas students are directly impacted by both the cost of fees and the programming that the fee revenues provide, and therefore have the right to vote on decisions surrounding broad based fees; and therefore, be it

Resolved that the SUNY Student Assembly recommend that the SUNY Board of Trustees amend Section II. Guideline 7 of the "Board of Trustees Authorized Fees and Charges" segment of Document 7804, "Fees, Rentals, and Other Charges" to state: "Each campus must adopt a comprehensive broad-based fee policy that ensures student involvement in the decision-making process, with direct communication of fee actions. Student involvement in the broad-based fee decision-making process should include at least one voting student representative, and administrations should provide an open forum to the public for discussion and an opportunity for questions and answers, or other methods where appropriate²;" and be it further

Resolved that the SUNY Student Assembly recommend that the SUNY Board of Trustees require SUNY institutions to alert students about the implementation of new fees and fee increases, while requiring institutions to publish and make publically available an annual breakdown of broad based fee revenues, allocations, and expenditures; and, be it further

² "Fees, Rentals, and Other Charges." The State University of New York. September 20, 2011. Accessed December 18, 2016. https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=398.

Resolved the SUNY Student Assembly recommend that the that there be an audit of all state-operated campuses on an annual basis to ensure that these regulations are met and that revenues from broad based fees are being spent appropriately; and, be it finally

Resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Nancy Zimpher; SUNY Chancellor, Eileen McLoughlin; Vice Chancellor of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, the SUNY Board of Trustees, and all presidents of SUNY institutions and SUNY Student Government Associations.

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