

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Members of the Student Assembly**

**FROM: Scott P. Turner, University-College Representative**

**DATE: October 18, 2014**

**SUBJECT: Support of LGBTQA+ Community**

Whereas, the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) was founded to provide students with a direct voice to the administration; and

Whereas, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Asexual/Aromantic, Allies and Advocates (and the A can also stand for All) (LGBTQA+) communities make up a large portion of SUNY students in addition to the nearly one million estimated students around the globe; and

Whereas, students are the reason that the universities and colleges within the SUNY System exist; and

Whereas, improved guidelines within universities and colleges requires that boards and presidents ensure that all students are able to pursue their studies without discrimination or harassment; and

Whereas, SUNYSA believes in student success as it transcends unto their personal, professional, academic lives, and beyond; and

Whereas, twenty one States and the District of Columbia have laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation; and

Whereas, eighteen states and the District of Columbia have laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on gender identity; and

Whereas, little protection for LGBTQA+ individuals exists when it comes to housing in thirty states and individuals can still be denied housing based on sexual orientation; and

Whereas, without proper housing and the ability to obtain said housing, the LGBTQA+ community will be set up for failure and not given a fair shot at success after leaving the SUNY system; and, be it;

Resolved, SUNYSA believes all campuses should work diligently on making each campus a safe and hate crime free place for all students, and, be it further;

Resolved, that education and safety should be a top priority for all of our SUNY campuses for all students, and, be it further;

Resolved, any reports received by public safety, campus/university police, faculty, staff, and fellow students, be taken seriously and handled appropriately throughout the process, and, be it further;

Resolved, SUNYSA stands in full support of the LGBTQA+ community, and, finally, be it;

Resolved, that copies of this resolution be distributed widely, but not limited to, the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, and SUNY Student Government Associations.