



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the General Assembly

FROM: Nathan Blazon-Brown, Senator, Undergraduate Student Government, Stony Brook University

DATE: April 11, 2015

SUBJECT: Resolution for SUNY Undergraduate Student Governments to support Governor Cuomo's Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Resolution

I recommend that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt as attached.



To: The Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government at Stony Brook University
From: Nathan Blazon-Brown
College of Arts and Science Senator
Undergraduate Student Government at Stony Brook University

Resolution for SUNY Undergraduate Student Governments to support Governor Cuomo's Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Resolution

Whereas, the State University of New York (herein 'SUNY') is the largest comprehensive university system in the nation, educating more than 459,000 students in more than 7,500 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses, and with more than three million alumni around the globe¹;

Whereas, one in five women is sexually assaulted while in college²;

Whereas, on October 2nd 2014 at the request of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher set forth a resolution calling for a uniform Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Policy that would be passed by the SUNY Board of Trustees³;

Whereas, the aforementioned resolution set forth by Governor Cuomo to the SUNY board of trustees sets clear guidelines for all SUNY campuses to follow, requiring⁴:

- All SUNY campuses to adopt a uniform Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights to notify and assist victims of sexual assault of their right to contact campus, local and/or State law enforcement, and to widely publicize the Bill of Rights to all students and distribute it to victims;
- All SUNY campuses to adopt a system-wide definition of affirmative consent as a clear, unambiguous, and voluntary agreement between the participants to engage in specific sexual activity, and shall widely disseminate this definition to the college/university community;
- All SUNY campuses to adopt a uniform, system-wide sexual assault student reporting amnesty policy;
- SUNY, working with the State, to conduct statewide coordinated training with all SUNY campuses, including training by University Police and State Police, mandatory to the fullest extent possible, on best practices for campus response and investigation plans and victim sensitivity, and training by expert SUNY and statewide officials for college administrators and adjudicators on preventing and addressing sexual violence and how to improve compliance with existing federal laws. SUNY will also release a uniform training for students to be included at each freshman orientation;
- SUNY, in coordination with the State, to undertake a statewide public awareness campaign, to increase awareness among college students, high school students, and parents of individual safety and prevention techniques as well as the importance of bystander intervention in any unsafe situation;
- All SUNY campuses to adopt a uniform, system-wide Confidentiality and Reporting Protocol; and
- All SUNY campuses to conduct a uniform campus climate assessment;

¹ "SUNY Fast Facts." SUNY Fast Facts. SUNY, n.d. Web.

² "Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault." Not Alone: The First Report of the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Mar. 2015.

³ Cuomo, Andrew. Sexual Assault Response & Prevention. Rep. Albany: SUNY, NY.Web.

⁴ Ibid

Whereas, on Thursday February 25th, Governor Cuomo launched his “Enough is Enough” Campaign, “to push for the passage of the Governor’s legislation combating sexual assault on college campuses,” creating a uniform policy concerning Sexual Assault Prevention and Response for all public and private Universities in New York State⁵;

Whereas, noncompliance with the State requirements for sexual assault as outlined in Governor Cuomo’s “Enough is Enough” campaign could result in loss of State funding;⁶

Whereas, as stated by the October 2nd, 2014 resolution calling for a uniform Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Policy, “Resolved, that all SUNY campus presidents must report to the Chancellor, or her designee, by March 31, 2015, the actions they have taken to address the measures set forth above, and the Chancellor shall subsequently report to the Board on the consolidated actions of the campuses and that the Chancellor shall also report these actions to the Governor.”⁷;

Whereas, as representatives of the students of the State University of New York it is our duty to assist in ensuring the safety of our fellow students;

Resolved, student governments of each SUNY campus in collaboration with their respective administrations, will take an active role in working to create (and/or support existing) educational agencies/events/committees/administrative initiatives etc. centered around sexual assault, bystander intervention, and campus resources to ensure compliance with the educational requirements of Governor Cuomo’s Sexual Assault Prevention & Response policy;

Resolved, student governments through the use of online resources (such as google drive, WebEx) and/or other means, are encouraged to share successful programs, initiatives, and ideas surrounding sexual assault, bystander intervention, and bring these ideas to their perspective Administrations;

Resolved, student governments are encouraged to assist in spreading awareness of the policy changes highlighted by Governor Cuomo’s Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Policy, so as to ensure a uniform SUNY wide policy;

cc: Submitted by Nathan Blazon-Brown College of Arts and Science Senator, Undergraduate Student Government at Stony Brook, to the Undergraduate Student Government Senate at Stony Brook University on the 10th of March, 2015.

Executive Council of the Undergraduate Student Government at Stony Brook University

Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor, SUNY

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., President, Stony Brook University

Peter Baigent, VP for Student Affairs, Stony Brook University

Timothy Ecklund, AVP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students, Stony Brook University

Lori Mould, President, SUNY Student Assembly

⁵ Tameez, Hanaa' "Governor Cuomo Launches “Enough Is Enough” Campaign to Combat Sexual Assault on College Campuses." Statesman [Stony Brook, NY] 2 Mar. 2015: n. pag. Print.

⁶ ibid

⁷ Cuomo, Andrew. Sexual Assault Response & Prevention. Rep. Albany: SUNY, NY.Web.