

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Members of the General Assembly**

**FROM: Marc Cohen, Senior Director of External Relations, SUNY Student Assembly**  
**Rey Muniz III, Director of Government Relations, SUNY Student Assembly**  
**Melissa Kathan, Associate Director of Government Relations – State Operated Campuses, SUNY Student Assembly**

**DATE: April 11, 2015**

**SUBJECT: Title Resolution in Support of Retaining Tuition Control within the State University of New York**

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

**Whereas**, the mission of the Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNYSA) adopt the following resolution:

**Whereas**, the State University of New York (herein ‘SUNY’) is the largest comprehensive 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 globe;

**Whereas**, SUNY has the potential to create unprecedented opportunities not just for college students and their families, but also for faculty and staff, businesses and industry, and the workforce of the State of New York;

**Whereas**, SUNY boasts a nationally competitive tuition rate, amongst the lower in the nation; and

**Whereas**, the means by which tuition increases occurred prior to the implementation of a rational tuition program were unpredictable and often extreme, at times being 36% in a single year; and

**Whereas**, a five-year tuition plan that is fair, equitable, and responsible, and keeps tuition revenues within the respective SUNY campus has provided students and their families the ability to plan ahead; and

**Whereas**, it is clear that the past, present and future of the State of New York is uniquely tied to SUNY, and finally;

**Whereas**, SUNY must have, and be able to provide fiscal stability to carry out this responsibility, therefore be it;

**Resolved**, the State University of New York at Albany Student Association hereby reinforces the importance of a rational tuition plan for SUNY that would:

- 1) be fair, equitable and responsible;
- 2) keep tuition revenues within the respective campuses;
- 3) provide students and their families the ability to adequately plan ahead;
- 4) provide the SUNY campuses with predictable revenue;

**Resolved**, that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York supports the continuation of state taxpayer support of maintenance of effort, with the addition of annual reflection of Higher Education Price Index (HEPI);

**Resolved**, that on an annual basis, it is requested that SUNY System Administration provides to the Student Assembly prior to the Board of Trustees' approval of the university budget and tuition rates, a comprehensive report on how the prior year's predictable tuition revenues have been spent, and outlining how they have led to improvement in areas including but not limited to academic programs, student supports and services, financial aid, and full-time and adjunct faculty supports; and

**Resolved**, that, following receipt of the aforementioned report, it is requested that the Board of Trustees engage the newly established Student Assembly Task Force on Tuition, chaired by the Student Assembly President or designee and consisting of equal representation across campus sectors as elected by the caucus and approved by the Executive Committee, in a thorough consultation to appropriately hear student concerns regarding the level at which tuition will increase and how the additional funding will be utilized; and

**Resolved**, that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York encourages each student government to engage in forums with their campus administrators regarding the allocation of tuition dollars, and to advocate to the State Legislature in support of this proposal and encourage its passage into law, and

**Resolved**, that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York requests that the SUNY Board of Trustees refrain from consistently raising tuition to its maximum threshold as they have for the past four consecutive years under rational tuition; and, finally be it

**Resolved**, that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Lt. Governor Kathleen C. Hochul, the members of the New York State Legislature, the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNY Chancellor Zimpher, University Faculty Senate, Faculty Council of Community Colleges, SUNY Campus Presidents, SUNY student governing bodies, and all other parties deemed necessary and proper.