



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

Resolution 1516-127
Brockport Student Government

State University Plaza, N501
353 Broadway, Albany, NY 12246
P:(518) 3201288 | F: (518) 3201555
www.sunysa.org

RESOLUTION

TO: Members of the General Assembly

**FROM: Brockport Student Government & Purchase Student Government
Association**

DATE: Saturday, April 16, 2016

SUBJECT: Resolution for Reinvestment in the State University of New York

Action Requested

We, the Student Assembly of the State University of New York, call upon the State of New York to implement state reinvestment sufficient to eliminate the need for tuition hikes and increased financial strain on students.

Resolution

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

Whereas the State University of New York was founded on providing affordable and accessible higher education within the State of New York;

Whereas The State University of New York, as an affordable institution of higher education, has the potential to provide unprecedented opportunities for the students, faculty, and staff it consists of as well as the entirety of the State of New York;

Whereas in 2011, the New York State legislature approved the SUNY 2020 plan including the “Rational” Tuition policy vesting in the SUNY Board of Trustees the ability to raise full time student tuition by a maximum of \$300 per year in conjunction with Maintenance of Effort;

Whereas Maintenance of Effort, as assured under SUNY 2020, pledged that tuition increases would be used to pay for support services for students while reinvestment in the State University of New York from the State of New York would pay for the contractual and mandatory operating expenses of SUNY member institutions;

Whereas in December of 2015, Governor Cuomo vetoed the Maintenance of Effort bill;

Whereas the State of New York has failed to meaningfully reinvest in the State University of New York and the future of its students;

Whereas the State not committing to adequately fund SUNY defeats the purpose of SUNY being a public institution;

Whereas consequently, under SUNY 2020, in the past 5 years, tuition at the State University of New York has risen by 30%;

Whereas students currently cover approximately 70% of the operating expenses of the State University of New York opposed to under 50% in 2008;

Whereas in March of 2016, the State University of New York Board of Trustees announced their commitment to a tuition freeze in the 2016-2017 academic year if \$73 million was directly invested into the State University of New York in the 2016-2017 state budget;

Whereas the State of New York has failed to provide sufficient reinvestment in the State University of New York for the 2016-2017 fiscal year;

Whereas dramatic state investment inherently eliminates the need for further tuition hikes and increased financial strain on students;

Whereas the State of New York has therefore demonstrated it is not serious about

supporting the approximately 460,000 students enrolled in the State University of New York as they endeavor to advance themselves and their community through pursuing a higher education;

Whereas the State University of New York is no longer a financially sustainable institution given the failure of the State of New York to reinvest;

Whereas without sufficient reinvestment from the State of New York, the State University of New York can not be considered a public institution of higher education;

Whereas the SUNY 2020 plan has failed the State University of New York and the students it consists of by subjecting students to an ever increasing financial burden without sufficiently correlating state support;

Whereas over the past months, thousands of students (organized but student government associations and other student groups) enrolled in the State University of New York have organized and taken part in movements of nonviolent direct action to voice their determination for a long term tuition freeze and full reinvestment into the State University of New York;

Resolved the the Student Assembly of the State University of New York call upon the State of New York to implement drastic reinvestment in the State University of New York; and, be it further,

Resolved that this reinvestment be sufficient as to implement a long term tuition freeze for all students enrolled in the State University of New York and renew the financial sustainability of the 64 member institutions; and, be it further

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York will 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.