



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

1516-48
Sustainability Committee

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RESOLUTION 1516-48

TO: Members of the Executive Committee
FROM: Zachary Beaudoin, Chair of Sustainability
DATE: October 31, 2015
SUBJECT: Sustainable Education

Action Requested

We call on the State University of New York and the State of New York to incorporate sustainability into their curriculum and develop courses into the general education requirements that teach sustainably in all of its forms. We ask that they integrate environmental stewardship into all campus practices, including course work, residence life, student activities, construction/renovation, and campus and auxiliary operations.

Resolution

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

Whereas the SUNY mission statement states, “[SUNY will exercise care that]...shares the expertise of the state university with the business, agricultural, governmental, labor and nonprofit sectors of the state through a program of public service for the purpose of enhancing the well-being of the people of the state of New York and in protecting our environmental and marine resources”;

Whereas by teaching students about protecting their natural resources, we will be creating students that are more well rounded;

Whereas SUNY Global states that it is committed to helping students to “gain a global and intercultural perspective on themselves, their society and

their area of study as an essential part of a well-rounded twenty-first century education” and part of this is educating students about protecting the planet;

Whereas sustainability isn't just about the environment, but ensuring that the planet will be liveable for all of humanity;

Whereas teaching students about the basics of sustainability will help drive sustainable development, research, and innovation;

Whereas the State of New York has nearly 3 million acres classified as nature preserves;

Whereas the State of New York borders two of the five Great Lakes as well as many other bodies of water;

Whereas educating students about our expansive wealth of natural resources and how to sustainably live will ensure that our resources are available for decades to come;

Whereas sustainability has interconnections with all academic areas;

Resolved that the Student Assembly encourages SUNY faculty, duly assisted by SUNY, to provide additional courses that fulfil existing general education requirements and focus on the basics of sustainability and sustainable development;

Resolved that SUNY encourage all classes to have an underlying focus of sustainability and sustainable development when feasible;

Resolved that SUNYSA calls on SUNY to integrate environmental stewardship into all campus practices, including course work, residence life, student activities, construction/renovation, and campus and auxiliary operations;

Resolved that in an effort to protect the sanctity of New York's resources and develop well-rounded individuals, we call on SUNY and New York to educate students about New York's resources and how to sustainably use them;

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.