

TO: Members of the General Assembly
FROM: Kainat Malik, President, SUNY Oneonta Student Association
DATE: November 12, 2015
SUBJECT: TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)



Whereas the 2011 legislation commonly referred to as “NY-SUNY 2020” recognized the SUNY Board of Trustees authority by providing for annual increases to tuition by up to \$300 per year for full-time resident undergraduate students (“Rational Tuition”); and

Whereas the NY-SUNY 2020 legislation did not increase the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award from its then current \$5,000 level; and

Whereas the NY-SUNY 2020 legislation required SUNY State-operated campuses to provide a “Tuition Credit” to cover the difference between the level of resident undergraduate tuition and \$5,000; and

Whereas approximately 23 percent of students at SUNY’s State-operated campuses receive the maximum TAP award of \$5,000 as well as the SUNY Tuition Credit; and

Whereas SUNY annually reinvests approximately 30 percent of the new resident undergraduate tuition revenue to cover the Tuition Credit; and

Whereas it is estimated that the total cost of providing a Tuition Credit to students at the State-operated campuses will have topped \$169M by June 30, 2016; therefore, let it be

Resolved the funds generated by Rational Tuition increases ought not to be used to subsidize Tuition Credit; and be it further

Resolved the State ought to increase the maximum TAP award to an individual student to the actual rate of State-operated campus undergraduate resident tuition; and finally, be it

Resolved that the Student Assembly of the State University of New York shall forward copies of this Resolution to 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.

References:

State University of New York. (n.d.). *An Analysis of the Tuition Assistance Program*. Albany: State University of New York.

Governor Cuomo Introduces Bill to Implement The NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program. (2011, June 9). Retrieved November 9, 2015, from New York State:
<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-introduces-bill-implement-nysuny-2020-challenge-grant-program>

Examining the New York State Tuition Assistance Program
<http://www.suny.edu/govrelations/state/testimony/2014-tap/>