



RESOLUTION 1718-39

TO: **Members of the Executive Committee**

FROM: **Austin Ostro , *Director of Legislative Affairs***

DATE: **Saturday, September 23rd, 2017**

SUBJECT: **Endorsement of the Legislative Agenda**

Action Requested

That the Executive Committee of the State University of New York Student Assembly, endorse the 2017-18 Legislative Agenda for Federal, State and Local Advocacy.

Resolution

The Department of Legislative Affairs in consultation with the Executive Board, Cabinet and Legislative Affairs Committee, recommends that the Executive Committee of the SUNY Student Assembly endorse the following resolution for passage and adoption at the Fall 2017 SUNY Student Assembly Conference.

Whereas, the Student Assembly, on behalf of the 600,000 students of the SUNY system, will seek to advocate for legislation beneficial to our students, our communities, our state, our country and our world, on the local, state, and federal level throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.

Be It Resolved that the 2017-18 Legislative Agenda shall consist of

- I. Support for the Maintenance of Effort provision,

Encourage Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to sign the Maintenance of Effort provision (S1596A) into law, so that the State University of New York may rely on the State of New York for financial support in budgetary planning, to counter inflationary increases in expenses.

- II. Support for New York State Dream Act

- The Student Assembly will push the State Senate to pass the NY State Dream Act which has passed the State Assembly multiple times. This legislation would give undocumented students access to in-state tuition benefits.



III Support For Legislative Action to Protect DACA recipients

- The SUNY Student Assembly will lobby Congress to enact legislation that provides legal status to DACA recipients. This will end the limbo DACA recipients have lived in since President Trump announced his plan to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program enacted by President Obama.

IV. College Preparedness Programs

- We support an increase in funding for grant programs that focus on better preparing low-income secondary school students for college. Not only will this increase the educational opportunities for the children benefiting from these programs, but these grants also offer hands-on experience to college students employed by said programs.

V. Sustainability Mandate

- We recommend continued advocacy, for the State of New York to provide a meaningful financial commitment to SUNY's plan to lessen systemwide dependence on fossil fuels by 30%, by the year 2020.

VI. Continued Support for Food Security & Food and Paste Waste Mandates

- We recommend continued advocacy for a uniform food security mandate. This mandate will ensure that no student suffers from food insecurity on campus for any religious, economic, medical or cultural reason. We also recommend pursuing a mandate on the prevention of food and paste waste management practices that may have a negative impact on the environment.

VI. Continued Support For Disability Access and ADA Compliance

- Lobby the federal government to enforce all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, in particular, Titles II, III and IV, so all means of transportation, facilities and telecommunication within the State University of New York can provide adequate services to all students.

VIII. Increase Funding For Full-Time Equivalents At Community Colleges

- Advocate for an increase in Full-Time Equivalent funding on the state level for community colleges so that we can get closer to the original 33/33/33 ideal for community college funding.



IX. Excelsior Scholarship for Part-Time Students

- Propose an amendment to the current rules and regulations of the Excelsior Scholarship to allow New Yorkers who work full-time to enroll as Part-Time students and still be able to access the scholarship.

X. Increase Capital Projects Funding

- We recommend advocating for an increase in funding for infrastructure and campus development projects across the system to ensure that our campuses are world-class institutions with proper resources to attract the best and brightest students from around the state and the world.

XI. Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Climate Change Challenge

- Following the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, the State of New York joined the United States Climate Alliance. The Governor has issued a challenge to all government departments, agencies and organizations to find ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the state government. The Student Assembly should partner with the State University of New York, in particular, the Office of the Chancellor to not only address and combat climate change but, attempt to win the Governor's challenge.

XII. University wide Affirmative Action Protections

- The Student Assembly remains committed to Affirmative Action programs that assist marginalized communities in achieving success in throughout the SUNY system. We recognize that while historic injustices can never fully be righted, affirmative action programs can create an opportunities for those who may not have had them otherwise.

XIII. Support for Equal Opportunity Program

- We will continue to push the state legislature to fund the EOP Program, which helps SUNY students from low-income families attend and afford college. We will advocate for continued growth in the EOP budget allotment so that the program can be available to even more students.

XIV. State Funding For Gender Identity Equality

- We will advocate for state funding to help campuses create or renovate campus infrastructure to accommodate transgender and non-binary students. This includes providing gender-neutral bathroom and housing options to students.



XV. Child Care Center Advocacy,

- All 64 State University campuses are statutorily required to maintain Child Care facilities on campus for students, faculty, staff and community members. We recommend continued advocacy at the state level for funding increases, so that our campuses can provide quality child care and prevent further financial burdens being placed on students.

Be It Further Resolved, The Legislative Affairs Department, in consultation with the President and the Executive Committee, will advocate for the enactment of this legislative agenda through the relevant institutions; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that this agenda and its supplementary documentation be delivered to the pertinent offices and officers as determined by the Legislative Affairs Committee and the Director of Legislative Affairs.

Respectfully submitted by: Austin Ostro, *Director of Legislative Affairs*