

Resolution

University Faculty Senate of City University of New York

Sustainably and Equitably Funding and Advancing CUNY and SUNY's Core Academic Mission

WHEREAS the City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY), like other public higher education systems across the nation, in fulfilling their core academic missions, transform students' lives and life chances and serve their state as foundations for democracy, platforms for civic engagement, engines of economic development, pathways to the middle class, magnets for population growth and private investment, and generators of health, creativity, and innovation; and

WHEREAS CUNY and SUNY had not fully recovered from past recessions when the COVID-19 pandemic imposed new risks, costs, stresses, and responsibilities on their students, staff, faculty, and leaders, with especially heavy burdens on their frontline student- and patient-facing workers; and

WHEREAS significant Federal pandemic relief funds have been made available to CUNY and SUNY campuses, yet those funds provide only short-term offsets to drops in recurring State support; and

WHEREAS Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature have a unique opportunity to make New York State a national leader in sustainably and equitably supporting and advancing CUNY and SUNY's core academic missions; and

WHEREAS the CUNY University Faculty Senate (CUNY UFS), has worked closely in recent years with the SUNY University Faculty Senate (SUNY UFS) and in alliance with the SUNY Student Assembly (SUNY SA), United University Professions (UUP), and the CUNY Professional Staff Congress (CUNY PSC) in advocating for New York State to become a national leader in investing direct state aid in CUNY and SUNY's core operating budgets;

RESOLUTION: THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CUNY UFS urges Governor Hochul to craft an Executive Budget that makes New York State a national leader in sustainably and equitably supporting and advancing CUNY and SUNY's core academic missions by

- significantly increasing the share of public funds going to public higher education core operating budgets and decreasing the share of CUNY and SUNY core operating costs paid for by student tuition and fees, through such means as
 - fully funding all negotiated contractual increases;
 - fully funding other mandatory operating cost increases for all CUNY and SUNY institutions, thereby augmenting New York State's commitment to a robust maintenance of effort for CUNY and SUNY;
 - immediately and permanently pegging the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award to CUNY and SUNY tuition each year and sunsetting the CUNY/SUNY Supplemental TAP Awards, thereby both closing and ending the TAP Gap;
 - pegging the maximum Excelsior Scholarship award to CUNY and SUNY tuition and simplifying eligibility requirements;
- fully funding CUNY's FY 2023 budget request which invests in student success, workforce development and social mobility, student well being, and campus infrastructure and support, including:

- Recruiting 1,075 new full-time CUNY faculty to prioritize equitable access to full-time faculty for all students – across senior colleges and community colleges,
- Implementing new pedagogical innovations,
- Eliminating obstacles to academic success with expanded financial support for student services,
- fully funding requests by the CUNY and SUNY Boards of Trustees for five-year capital plans addressing critical maintenance and new capital projects, as well as necessary accessibility upgrades to older buildings; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the CUNY UFS calls on all friends and all other good-faith partners of CUNY and SUNY, to urge Governor Hochul to make New York State a national leader in sustainably and equitably supporting and advancing CUNY and SUNY's core academic missions, and to speedily pass resolutions aligned with ours.