

Resolution in Support of Graduate Education, Research and Creative Activities

Morrisville Plenary Meeting

February 6, 2009

Whereas, the level of implemented budget cuts substantially weaken the reputation and status of SUNY as an institution of high quality graduate education, research and creative activities by creating the potential for a serious loss of current faculty and making the recruitment of new talent (faculty and graduate students) difficult and by decreasing the ability of faculty to secure desperately needed external funding, and

Whereas, the current budget cuts are so severe that they will undermine New York State's investment in its future by making it more difficult for graduate students to have access to the programs they require, which will hamper their ability to both graduate in a timely fashion and complete meaningful and productive research and also incurring greater costs for their education, and

Whereas, the current financial crisis that is gripping New York State and the nation, and which is likely to continue for several years, will lead to increased unemployment that will result in an increase in the numbers of citizens seeking to enhance existing job skills by enrolling in SUNY graduate programs,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the University Faculty Senate, as the representative body through which the faculty and professional staff engage in the governance of the University, believes that SUNY should not sustain the same percentage budget reductions as other state agencies, and

Be it further resolved, that the state publicly acknowledges the research activities of SUNY faculty and graduate students as a significant investment in its future and as an engine of economic productivity that New York State sorely needs, and

Be it further resolved, that the faculty and academic and professional staff, who define the university, must be preserved at all costs even during periods of budget shortfalls, and

Be it further resolved, that Governor Paterson and the Legislature should provide to SUNY sufficient funds in continuing years to maintain SUNY as one of the premier institutions of public graduate education and research in the country.

151-03-1 Passed without Dissent

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February 7, 2009