



The State University  
of New York

## Office of the Chancellor

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April 15, 2026

Bruce Simon  
President, University Faculty Senate  
H. Carl McCall Building  
Albany, NY 12246

Dear Trustee Simon:

Thank you for sharing the resolutions adopted at the Winter 2026 Plenary. As always, I appreciated the opportunity to engage with the UFS and its Committees. Requested responses to adopted resolutions follow:

- **Resolution 202-02-01: In Support of DEISJ Knowledge Areas Across all SUNY Sectors**

SUNY remains fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion – which, as I often describe, is embedded in SUNY’s DNA through the very language in our statutory mission: “to provide to the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population....”

As the resolution importantly notes, SUNY’s commitment is evident in diversity, equity, and inclusion’s representation among SUNY’s four pillars, the appointment of a Chief Diversity Officer on every campus, and diversity, equity, and inclusion’s status as a core competency in our General Education Framework. I am proud of our faculty’s implementation of the DEISJ General Education requirement and of the work of our DEISJ Faculty Fellows and all faculty who contribute to these important knowledge areas, including courses provided by Women’s & Gender Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Queer Studies, Black Studies, Latine Studies, Africana Studies, Asian and AAPI Studies, Native and Indigenous Studies, Multi-Ethnic Studies, American Studies, and Disability Studies programs.

SUNY’s commitment to academic freedom is also sacrosanct. As our SUNY Board of Trustees Policy states: “It is the policy of the University to maintain and encourage full freedom, within the law, of inquiry, teaching, and research. In the exercise of this freedom, faculty members may, without limitation, discuss their own subject in the classroom; they may not, however, claim as their right the privilege of discussing in their classroom controversial matter that has no relation to their subject. The principle of academic freedom shall be accompanied by a corresponding principle of responsibility. In their role as citizens, employees have the same freedoms as other citizens. However,

in their extramural utterances, employees have an obligation to indicate that they are not institutional spokespersons.”

While some states have retreated on these essential values, New York has not.

- **Resolution 202-03-1: Responding to Faculty/Staff Funding and Program Cuts**

I appreciate the UFS’s deep and shared commitment to SUNY’s research excellence. Our researchers are leading the way in saving lives, improving our security, and strengthening our communities – and they represent the very best of SUNY.

As you know, the research partnership between the federal government and higher education goes back to the time of World War II, with the federal government moving decisively to fund advancements in technology and medicine that accelerated breakthroughs such as the radar, the internet, and groundbreaking medical treatments.

At a time when the federal government has sadly retreated from partnering with universities to advance basic research and drive investment and innovation, SUNY remains committed to progress and to achieving Governor Hochul’s ambitious goal to double research expenditures.

While no state – even New York – can replace losses in federal funding, the good news is that Congress has largely rejected the president’s deep cuts to major research agencies. We are also continuing to work closely with the Governor’s Office and the New York Attorney General to protect our existing research grants, to the maximum extent legally possible.

Over the last year, Governor Hochul has announced nearly \$500 million in major SUNY research investments thanks to the State’s commitment to research capital funding, the launch of the multi-campus SUNY Brain Institute, and a historic gift from alumnus Tom Secunda to the State University of New York at Binghamton to establish the nation’s first independent AI research center at a public university.

At the same time, we must do everything in our power to compete for and win available non-State research funding. SUNY is taking a number of steps outlined in the UFS resolution, including providing additional support to campuses seeking research grants through our SUNY GROW Unit and developing a detailed strategy to expand industry partnerships for research. I have asked our Provost’s Office to consider the additional support mechanisms and other recommendations in the resolution to determine where SUNY can bolster our efforts, and I welcome ongoing partnership on these efforts.

- **Resolution 202-01-01: Amend Policy Regarding “Display of the Flag” to Include the Flags of Sovereign Indigenous Nations in New York State**

SUNY adheres to the [policy set by our Board of Trustees](#) as well as New York State law, specifically Executive Law § 403, regarding the Display of Flags. These policies provide detailed guidance on which flags may be flown on campus facilities and adjacent flagstaffs. Permitted flags include the U.S. flag, the New York State flag, the UN flag, the Red Cross flag, the National League of Families POW/MIA flag, and any unique campus flag.

If campuses wish to display the Haudenosaunee flag or other indigenous flags, we encourage them to collaborate with their constituents to develop individual guidelines for flag display. These guidelines should offer clear and specific guidance that reflects the global, international, and Indigenous connections of each SUNY campus community. Furthermore, campuses may work with scholars, Indigenous students, and local Indigenous communities to ensure ongoing education and engagement that is meaningful, while also acknowledging the land on which they are situated.

- **Resolution 202-04-01: Executive Budget Resolution**

SUNY welcomes the UFS’s support for sustained investment from the New York State budget in the SUNY System. Over the last three years, SUNY has seen historic levels of support from Governor Hochul and the State Legislature, and we are eager to work with SUNY’s elected champions to continue and accelerate the pace of investment.

Partnering with UFS this year has ensured alignment to the maximum extent practicable on budget advocacy messaging, and we are grateful for the collaboration. Faculty are a key voice in the conversation in support of continued operating aid investment and increasing capital investments to ensure facilities accelerate academic success, research, and student well-being.

Thank you for your valued partnership in this effort, and we will continue to work towards a fourth year of historic State investment.

- **Resolution 201a-08-01: Safeguarding Free Expression, Peaceful Assembly, and Privacy**

At SUNY, we believe unapologetically in academic freedom, in freedom of expression, and in preventing discrimination and harassment. These rights and responsibilities can, and must, exist side-by-side in order to provide a safe, inclusive, and welcoming education for every SUNY student.

SUNY has issued – and will continue to communicate – clear, morally unambiguous statements vowing to protect student safety; rejecting antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism, sexism, anti-LGBTQ+ bias, and other forms of bigotry and hatred; and reiterating the importance of free expression alongside the need of all students, faculty, and staff to engage one another with respect even when they disagree. I want to especially

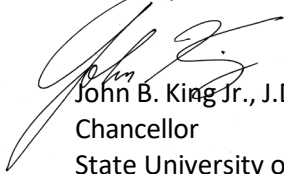
recognize the important work of our Civil Discourse and Civic Education & Engagement Fellows, who are supporting faculty across the System in implementing our new General Education core competency in civic discourse.

As the resolution notes, content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions govern protests and other activities on our campuses. In advance of the fall 2024 semester, SUNY provided all State-operated campuses with model policies for content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions. These policies protect the rights of members of the campus community to protest, as well as the rights of all other students, faculty, staff, and visitors to our campuses.

In addition, SUNY is committed to fidelity to the Title VI protections from discrimination and harassment afforded to all students. Every SUNY faculty and staff member is required to complete annual Title VI training. SUNY began this policy in fall 2024, becoming the first known System in the nation to do so. Building on this work, every SUNY campus is now also required to appoint a Title VI Coordinator and all student organization leaders and residence life staff at State-operated campuses are required to take the annual Title VI student training.

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to SUNY.

Sincerely,



John B. King Jr., J.D., Ed.D.

Chancellor

State University of New York