

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Executive Committee
RE: Resolution Urging SUNY System Administration to Clarify Shared Governance
Engagement Expectations in Implementation Guidance to Campuses
DATE: April 18, 2026
LOCATION: Farmingdale State College
NUMBER: 203-02-1
VOTE: For: 40 / Against: 1

RATIONALE

WHEREAS SUNY System Administration regularly issues communications for campuses to develop local policies and procedures within the framework of System initiatives or policies, and may provide guidance regarding those initiatives or policies; and

WHEREAS shared governance structures vary across SUNY campuses and each campus maintains at least one duly constituted governance body through which the faculty and/or professional staff participate in shared governance and institutional decision-making; and

WHEREAS shared governance is essential to sound institutional decision-making and effective implementation of initiatives and policies; and

WHEREAS relevant System communications that do not explicitly reinforce the importance of timely, meaningful engagement, consultation, and collaboration between campus administrations and elected campus governance leaders and established campus governance bodies may lead to shared decision-making being treated as optional, satisfied through mere information-sharing, or easily deferred; now

RESOLUTION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate (SUNY UFS) urges Chancellor King to direct members of SUNY System Administration to include in all relevant communications setting expectations for campuses to develop local policies or procedures within the framework of System initiatives or policies clear expectations for timely, meaningful engagement, consultation, and collaboration between campus administrations and elected campus governance leaders and established campus governance bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SUNY UFS urges Chancellor King to ensure that such System communications state plainly that no campus administration may avoid following SUNY policies and procedures such as those mandated by the Board of Trustees or delay shared decision-making with elected campus governance leaders and established campus governance bodies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SUNY UFS urges Chancellor King to ensure that campus administrations receive regular training on SUNY and Board of Trustees policies and procedures regarding effective shared governance procedures, such training to be developed by SUNY System Administration in consultation with SUNY UFS and the SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SUNY UFS commits to assisting campus governance bodies in engaging with campus administrations should the Chancellor and SUNY System Administration act on this resolution.