

To: Faculty Council of Community Colleges, Student Assembly, University Faculty Senate
From: Faculty Council of Community Colleges and University Faculty Senate Executive Committees
RE: Resolution: Vote of No Confidence in Politically Appointed Members of SUNY Board of Trustees
Date: 21 August 2020

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS the State University of New York (SUNY), like other public higher education systems across the nation, is committed to fulfilling its core academic mission, to transform students' lives and life chances, and serve the state as a foundation for democracy, platform for civic engagement, engine of economic development, pathway to the middle class, magnet for population growth and private investment, and generators of health, creativity, and innovation; and

WHEREAS the SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges (SUNY FCCC), the SUNY Student Assembly (SUNY SA), and the SUNY University Faculty Senate (SUNY UFS) have advocated for following transparent and established process in searches for campus and SUNY System Administration leaders; and

WHEREAS SUNY has a national reputation as a leader in the practice of shared governance, as evidenced by the SUNY Voices initiative which has sponsored conferences, edited volumes, and leadership trainings on shared governance; and

WHEREAS legitimate, broad-based and transparent search processes in higher education represent a best practice in shared governance as per the AAUP Statement on Governance; and

WHEREAS searches for the SUNY Chancellor over the last two decades have followed transparent and established search processes, resulting in excellent outcomes; and

WHEREAS the politically appointed members of the Board of Trustees have ignored this proud history that in the past demonstrated shared governance in chancellor and presidential searches at SUNY and its campuses; and

WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees approved the Resolution on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in September of 2015 in order to grow the diversity of SUNY's system and campus leadership, as well as its faculty and staff; and

WHEREAS in bypassing a transparent and inclusive national search process, the politically appointed members of the SUNY Board of Trustees have neglected to actualize the goals of the Resolution on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS the current budget and health crises do not necessitate the abandonment of shared governance, in that collaboration and inclusive decision-making instead will generate the best decisions going forward; and

WHEREAS the politically appointed members of the Board of Trustees have condoned the unilateral appointment of a Chancellor, acting in a manner that disregards norms, practices and traditions in higher education;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY FCCC, SUNY SA, and SUNY UFS express no confidence in the politically appointed members of the SUNY Board of Trustees, given their action regarding the appointment of the 14th chancellor without conducting a search that meets standards of shared governance and effective leadership of our University System.