

*Whereas* the faculty of the Community Colleges have consistently supported faculty-driven campus-based assessment and, to that end, the faculty and the Provost have come together to work on the GEAR (General Education Assessment Review) Initiative; and

*Whereas* over the last two years the GEAR Committee has diligently reviewed the General Education Assessment Plans of the 57 campuses involved with general education programs; and

*Whereas* GEAR provides each campus with an appropriate plan for assessing its own general education program. In addition, each campus has negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Provost's office, providing an ongoing mechanism for the college and System Administration to review the program's success; and

*Whereas* both GEAR and the MOU hold the campuses to the highest standards of academic rigor, demonstrating the faculty's commitment to quality and accountability in higher education; and

*Whereas* while the faculty of the Community Colleges have endorsed faculty-driven campus-based assessment plans such as GEAR, the faculty do not support a system-wide plan for the use of common metrics to assess student learning outcomes; and

*Whereas* although the faculty have been almost unanimous in opposition to system-wide assessment, they have met with the Provost and Associate Provost at the Chancellor's request to discuss the issue, with the understanding that no system-wide assessment plan would move forward without the imprimatur of the University Faculty; and

*Whereas* given our collegial relationship with System Administration, we were greatly shocked at Trustee de Russey's resolution of June 9 calling for system-wide testing for learning outcomes and by the Chancellor's subsequent resolution calling for system-wide assessment, the passing of which by the Board of Trustees circumvented a negotiating process the faculty had entered into in good faith with the Provost's office. Therefore, be it

*Resolved* that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges respectfully requests that the SUNY Board of Trustees reconsider this resolution; and be it further

*Resolved* that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges respectfully requests that the SUNY Board of Trustees allow the Community College faculty to proceed unimpeded with their current approved plans of general education assessment.