

Undergraduate Student Government
Stony Brook University
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SENATE

SENATE RESOLUTION AGAINST THE CONSOLIDATION OF SUNY CAMPUS PRESIDENCIES

Whereas, the Chancellor of the State University of New York, Dr. Nancy Zimpher, has proposed the implementation of regional “Campus Alliance Networks” and the sharing of administrative services between campuses, a policy commonly known as “Shared Services”;

Whereas, on July 28th, 2011, it was announced that SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam would be consolidating campus presidencies as a part of Chancellor Zimpher's "Shared Services" initiative;

Whereas, other similar announcements were made concerning SUNY I.T., Delhi, Cobleskill, and Morrisville in early August 2011;

Whereas, there was only a minimal amount of student input in this matter, as well as a lack of consultation with the individual colleges’ councils during the decision making process;

Whereas, it may be construed by some as effectively consolidating and merging campuses;

Whereas, proper impact studies and discussions among campus constituencies have not been completed in all cases;

Whereas, such a move would seriously threaten the long-term viability of, and individuality of our campuses;

Whereas, the diversity and individuality of our 64 campuses is the foundation of our strength, a foundation that the State University of New York’s entire strategic plan, “The Power of SUNY” relies on;

Whereas, such actions taken by the Board of Trustees will further erode the State University of New York’s overall average rating as evidenced in the Fall 2011 State University Report Card;

Whereas, the rationales that have been publicly announced have shown little real direct savings after incidental costs are assessed;

Whereas, numerous studies have shown the absence of benefit specific to the Canton/Potsdam case; and

Whereas, the SUNY Student Assembly has encouraged all of the Student Governments throughout the SUNY system to adopt a Resolution, such as this, and therefore

Resolved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government that -

1. The Undergraduate Student Government of Stony Brook University and the Student Assembly of the State University of New York hereby officially denounce all past actions related to shared presidencies due to the lack of student and faculty input, and demand the delay of any future

decisions until research has been conducted and that all future decisions be made in coordination with faculty and student input;

2. All future conversations or plans directly involving such drastic measures be properly vetted through the Chancellor-championed, open "shared governance" model, ensuring that students, faculty, and staff are involved in conceiving, planning, implementing, and evaluating such plans; and
3. The Undergraduate Student Government and the Student Assembly of the State University of New York hereby officially endorse the efforts made in good faith on behalf of all SUNY stakeholders in opposing any plan to share presidencies, and any other proposal that would similarly undermine campus individuality, and pledges support of all such endeavors.

Deborah Machalow
Executive Vice President

Date