

**University Faculty Senate  
Governance Committee  
174<sup>th</sup> Plenary  
SUNY Cortland  
October 22, 2016**

**Resolution on Faculty and Professional Staff Membership on College/University Councils**

**Whereas**, each State-operated institution has a college council authorized by NYS Education Law § 356 (sometimes referred to as “university councils”), and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry has a Board of Trustees authorized pursuant to NYS Education Law § 6003 (collectively referred to collectively as “councils”); and

**Whereas**, subject to the general management, supervision, and control of the SUNY Board of Trustees, the councils are charged with various responsibilities for their respective institutions, including but not limited to the review of all major plans of the institution for the appraisal or improvement of the faculty and other personnel, expansion or restriction of student admissions, appraisal or improvement of academic programs and standards for the earning of degrees, expansion of institutional plants, opening or closing of a branch campus, and appraisal or improvement of student activities and housing; and

**Whereas** the councils also are charged with the important task of recommending to the SUNY Board of Trustees candidates to serve as campus President; and

**Whereas**, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Accreditation Standard 4: Leadership and Governance, reads, “the Commission on Higher Education expects a climate of shared collegial governance in which all constituencies (such as faculty, administration, staff, students, and governing board members) involved in carrying out the institutional mission, vision and goals will participate in the governance function in a manner appropriate to that institution”; and

**Whereas**, the faculty governance leader of a campus and the professional staff governance leader (where present) of a campus are duly elected by their peers to be the official governance representative of their respective constituency; and

**Whereas**, the practice of providing formal recognition of faculty and staff governance leaders by councils varies greatly among the campuses; and

**Whereas**, the current council membership does not have representation from all the bodies recommended by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education; therefore

**Be it resolved** that the SUNY University Faculty Senate (“UFS”) asks the SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor to support changing the NYS Educational Law to allow governance leaders of each SUNY campus, elected in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established at each campus, to become *ex-officio* and non-voting members of their councils and boards.

**174-01-1**

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Passed**