

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate

FROM: Operations Committee

RE: Resolution: Recommendations for Academic Advisers Related to International Students

DATE: 178th Plenary, January 18-20, 2018

LOCATION: SUNY Polytechnic Institute at Utica

RESOLUTION #: 178-07-01

VOTE TALLY: 37 For; 0 Against; 3 Abstain

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS the federal government has strict academic eligibility requirements for international students on F-1 or J-1 visas that enable them to study in the United States; and

WHEREAS it is critical for students to be fully informed about the impact of registration choices (e.g., number of credits, 100% online study) on visa status; and

WHEREAS incomplete and incorrect information related to the impact of a student's registration on current or future visa status has the potential to cause students to be immediately expelled from the United States and prevent them from completing their degree; and

WHEREAS understanding the academic requirements for student visas and access to student information requires a time commitment and access to records that is unreasonable to expect of academic advisors, whose primary purpose is to provide academic, major, and career guidance within the scope of their expertise rather than visa counsel:

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UFS Senators work with their campus governance bodies to make it clear to academic advisers that international students' registration impacts their visa status. As such, academic advisers should refer students to the international education officers on their campus for information on how registration and registration changes may impact visa status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UFS Senators work with their campus governance bodies to ensure all campuses provide a means for academic advisers to equitably and inclusively identify international students on their advising caseloads to assist advisers in delivering appropriate academic advisement information to international students.