The University Faculty Senate has developed over the past decade as an extremely valuable forum for faculty discussion of University-wide issues. When the Senate was begun, it was entirely State-funded. As operating budgets became tighter, Senate budgets were transferred to the State University Research Foundation.

Escalating costs have worked an increasing restraint on Senate activity. Moreover, the increase in State travel allowances this past year placed an extraordinary burden on the Senate's budget, since up to 70% of its funds are spent in travel. The Research Foundation cannot absorb the inflationary increases needed to fund the ongoing Senate activities.

Senate travel is basically for the following major functions: three plenary sessions of the Senate each year; Senate committee activities, including the Executive Committee; representation of the faculty on Statewide Task Forces; providing faculty for Statewide panels such as last spring's Chancellor's Forum; attendance by the President of the Senate as an observer at Board of Trustees' meetings; and liaison with other constituent groups.

The first of these activities, attendance at plenary sessions, is most directly related to the campus in terms of feedback. These travel expenses for Senators are also most amenable to equitable sharing, since Senate representation is directly related to the size of the faculty on each campus.

The matter of Senate travel expenses was discussed with the Council of Presidents at the September 12 meeting, and that body concurred in the proposal that local campuses absorb the travel costs of sending their Senators to the three plenary sessions held each year by the University Faculty Senate. From now on, therefore, the Senator(s) or the Alternate(s) serving in
place of the Senator(s) will be reimbursed by the local campus for travel expenses incurred in attending the plenary sessions. Local travel regulations will, of course, be followed by Senators and Alternates travelling at campus expense. This policy becomes effective with the next Senate meeting, scheduled for November 3-4 at Brockport. The other plenary sessions this year are scheduled for Albany and Cortland.

cc: President and Secretary, University Faculty Senate

This memorandum addressed to:
Presidents, State-operated campuses

Copies for Information only to:
Presidents, Community Colleges
Deans, Statutory Colleges
President Rose
Vice President Cook