Resolution for SUNY Ethics Review

Whereas SUNY’s commitment to educational excellence and public service should include leadership in fostering the highest internal standards and practices of ethics and integrity; and

Whereas SUNY resources and its reputation as a whole are at stake whenever there are highly publicized situations that raise public concerns about oversight, integrity and accountability in SUNY and its related entities; and

Whereas there have been several high-profile ethics cases in recent years within SUNY; and

Whereas SUNY can address public concerns by proactively encouraging an overall culture of accountability and by creating a structure that reduces the risk of such situations occurring in the future; and

Whereas the entire SUNY University Faculty Senate adopted a statement of ethical principles to affirm its commitment to the highest ethical standards; therefore

Be it Resolved that the University Faculty Senate:

1. Urges the Chancellor and Board of Trustees to develop and conduct a periodic ethics review of SUNY campuses, SUNY-related nonprofits, and of System Administration;

2. Work with the Chancellor in designing the ethics review to encourage ethical leadership that goes beyond (but includes) minimal compliance with the law;

3. Include in the ethics review or assessment of institutional policies and procedures addressing the following topics (among others), using the UFS resolution on ethical principles as a guiding document:
   a) ethics training and programs for fostering high standards of integrity among leadership, staff, faculty, and students; b) disclosure and management of conflicts of interest; c) whistleblower protections; d) duties and activities of the institutional ethics officer; e) identification of fiduciary obligations of leadership and governing boards; f) transparency and compliance with state law governing open meetings and freedom of information; and g) criteria and process for assessing institutional leadership on integrity and ethics.

4. Ensure that each ethics review report is transparent and accessible to the public.

See, e.g., Thomas Kaplan, Under Scrutiny, Official at State University Resigns, N.Y. TIMES (June 3, 2011) (reporting the resignation of John J. O’Connor, SUNY Secretary and Senior Vice Chancellor and Research Foundation President, following accusations that he gave a no-show job to a relative of a state political
leader); James T. Mulder, *Upstate Medical President is Resigning “...to avoid further Distraction for the University”,* SYRACUSE.COM (Nov. 7, 2013) (reporting that SUNY had placed the President on leave pending an investigation of inappropriate compensation); Matthew Hamilton, *Complaint Charges SUNY Poly’s Kaloyeros, Developer Niccola With Bid-rigging,* ALBANY TIMES-UNION (Sept. 22, 2016) (reporting federal and state felony charges against the SUNY Poly president).

2 UFS 173-02-1 Resolution for a Statement of Ethical Principles, Spring 2016


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