

**SUNY/CUNY**  
**Joint Statement on Shared Governance**  
**Issued by**  
**CUNY University Faculty Senate, SUNY University Faculty Senate, and**  
**SUNY Faculty Council of Community Colleges**

New York's two systems of public higher education, the State University of New York (SUNY) and the City University of New York (CUNY), have three faculty governance organizations that represent the academic voice of the faculty, namely, SUNY's University Faculty Senate and Faculty Council of Community Colleges and CUNY's University Faculty Senate. All three faculty governance organizations agree that systems of shared governance are the most dependable and effective structures to support sustainable and innovative colleges and universities.

Equally important, the faculty's disciplinary and teaching expertise are essential for determining the curriculum, developing appropriate pedagogical methods, and advancing knowledge. Institutions of higher education work best when faculty, individually and collectively, are responsible for exercising their academic judgment to determine who teaches, what is taught, to whom and how, and what performance standards are appropriate. Colleges and universities that serve students with a wide range of academic preparation face a particularly challenging task. Faculty are responsible for ensuring that students learn, so that the college or university can fulfill its core missions of advancing and transmitting knowledge. In doing so, they must have the Academic Freedom to pursue effective expression of that judgment. While trends and demands from stakeholders external to colleges fluctuate over time, tradition and experience consistently recognize the value faculty bring to higher education's role in meeting societal needs for an informed and thoughtful citizenry to maintain and advance civil society.

--Adopted unanimously on January 8, 2015