



**Resolution Regarding Open Presidential Searches
E1.2019-2020
Passed By Executive Committee
October 11, 2019**

WHEREAS public universities and colleges exist to serve the public interest; and,

WHEREAS the practices of shared governance help ensure that public universities and colleges serve the public interest; and,

WHEREAS the “Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation” of the Middle States Commission of Higher Education (MSCHE) states that “in all activities, whether internal or external, an institution must be faithful to its mission”; and,

WHEREAS the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in its 2015 *Statement on Presidential Searches* states that “decisions to forgo public campus visits and public forums by finalists violate long standing principles of shared governance”; and,

WHEREAS the practice of conducting closed presidential searches is inconsistent with one of the central elements of the mission of every public community college and university, namely, that of engaging its community; and,

WHEREAS a central role of community college presidents is to foster mutually productive relations between their college and their community; and,

WHEREAS closed searches are more susceptible to improper influence from forces or individuals both inside and outside of the college; and,

WHEREAS the practice of ensuring that “short-list” finalists openly engage the college community need not in any way compromise the college’s duty to keep confidential the names of other applicants; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, consistent with both AAUP’s and MSCHE’s standards, and with its own best practices of shared governance, urges all SUNY campuses to hold public campus visits and public forums for finalists of presidential searches.

See also the “Role of Faculty in Shared Governance Statement,” approved by the Faculty Council of Community Colleges on October 18, 2008 and the “Faculty Council of Community Colleges Position Statement on Support of Elected Faculty Representatives on Search Committee for New President of Nassau Community College,” passed May 17, 2013.