



**Faculty Council of Community Colleges**  
**Faculty Representation on Campus Presidential Searches**  
**G1.2019-2020**  
**Passed**  
**October 5, 2019**

**WHEREAS** the American Association of University Professors'(AAUP) 1966 "Statement on \Government of Colleges and Universities" identifies the selection of an institution's new president as an enterprise requiring "joint effort of a most critical kind," dependent upon "a cooperative search by the governing board and the faculty, taking into consideration the opinions of others who are appropriately interested"; and,

**WHEREAS** the SUNY "Guidelines for Presidential Searches for Community Colleges, Including a Procedures Manual" (April 1, 2005)\*, states that a presidential search committee should "in accord with generally accepted presidential search procedures" include "faculty, administrative and support staff, union leadership, student, alumni, and foundation representation and of course, members of the board itself," possibly in addition to "representative(s) from the local area, especially leaders in the business community"; and,

**WHEREAS** the AAUP's 1981 "Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Administrators" states that, in the composition of a search committee for a new president "Each group should select its own members to serve on the committee"; and,

**WHEREAS** the SUNY "Guidelines for Presidential Searches for Community Colleges, Including a Procedures Manual," is silent on the issue of how the representatives of such constituencies should be chosen, with the result that, in practice, those faculty on presidential search committees at community colleges are sometimes appointed by Search Committee Chairs or others, rather than being duly elected by their peers through a faculty-driven nomination and election process; and,

**WHEREAS** a group's selection of its own representatives to serve on a search committee "gives the greatest sense of legitimacy to the members and acknowledges the respective roles of the constituent groups," as noted by Muriel E. Poston in the AAUP's "Presidential Search Checklist;" and,

**WHEREAS** according to SUNY procedural document #8400 “Presidential Searches, Guidelines for Conducting,” which applies specifically to state-operated campuses, “the search committee shall [include . . .] six members of the full-time teaching faculty of the campus”; and,

**WHEREAS** by the nature of community colleges and their missions, faculty engage in teaching as their primary professional responsibility, thus making their participation in a presidential search process integral to the college’s ability to succeed in its educational mission; and,

**WHEREAS** because a community college’s elected campus governance leader understands the workings of shared governance on the campus, that person’s unique perspective is invaluable on a search committee for a new president; therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) recommends that the SUNY “Guidelines for Presidential Searches for Community Colleges, Including a Procedures Manual,” be revised to show that faculty representatives to a presidential search committee at a community college will be elected by the faculty through their faculty governance process; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** that the FCCC recommends the “Guidelines” state that the minimum number of full-time teaching faculty on a presidential search committee is to be at least four, in addition to faculty serving on the committee by virtue of their holding other positions as described in the current “Guidelines”; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** that the FCCC recommends that the SUNY “Guidelines” be revised to show that, in addition to any other faculty representatives, the campus governance leader (or designee) should be included on a presidential search committee at a community college; and, be it further

**RESOLVED** that the FCCC recommends that the “Guidelines” state that meetings of a community college presidential search committee will be scheduled to allow full participation by the elected faculty representatives.