MEMORANDUM

September 10, 2015

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Delegation of Approval of Campus Performance Improvement Plans

Action Requested

The proposed resolution delegates to the Chancellor or her designee the authority to approve campus Performance Improvement Plans as required by the 2015/16 Enacted State budget.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas the 2015/16 Enacted State Budget creates an $18,000,000 State University of New York investment and performance fund which is to be allocated to SUNY campuses upon their completion of Performance Improvement Plans (“Performance Plans”) approved by the Board of Trustees no later than December 31, 2015; and

Whereas Performance Plans for State-operated campuses must include criteria to improve access, completion, academic and post-graduation success and services, research and community engagement - criteria which align with the SUNY Excels Performance System; and

Whereas the 2015/16 Enacted State Budget requires SUNY community colleges to have Performance Plans approved by the Board of Trustees in order to receive New York State
Job Linkage Program Incentive Funds for SUNY community colleges; and

Whereas approved Performance Plans for community colleges must include criteria to improve access, completion, academic and post-graduation success, job placement of graduates, new programs and certifications aligned with the needs of local business - criteria which align with the SUNY Excels Performance System; and

Whereas the New York State Education Law gives the Board of Trustees broad authority to take whatever actions may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the mission of the State University, including assigning duties and responsibilities to the officers and staff of the State University; and

Whereas delegation to the Chancellor, or her designee, of the authority to approve Performance Plans will ensure that campuses have adequate time to incorporate faculty, community, and stakeholder engagement in the development of their Performance Plans; and

Whereas such delegation will similarly allow the Chancellor, or her designee, sufficient time to conduct a thoughtful and studied review of the Performance Plans; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees hereby delegates to the Chancellor or her designee authority to approve campus Performance Plans no later than December 31, 2015; and, be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor or her designee will provide to the Board of Trustees a summary of campus and System Administration commitments stemming from the Performance Plans no later than March 24, 2016.

Background

By the proposed resolution, the Board authorizes the Chancellor or her designee to approve campus Performance Improvement Plans no later than December 31, 2015.
The requirement for Performance Plans is new, stemming from the 2015/16 Enacted State Budget. However, the plans are consistent with what would have been required as part of campus annual reporting on the SUNY Excels Performance System, adopted by the SUNY Trustees in January 2015 via Resolution No. 2015-06.

The Chancellor envisions charging the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor with conducting an iterative review of Performance Plans with each campus to ensure that goals are based on accurate data are consistent with legislative requirements, campus priorities, and that the goals therein will contribute to the continuous improvement of each institution. The Provost will make recommendations to the Chancellor regarding approval.