

University Faculty Senate  
Executive Committee  
153rd Plenary  
SUNYIT  
October 24, 2009

**Resolution in Support of Legislation Requiring a Baccalaureate Degree for Permanent  
Registration in Nursing**

Whereas, nursing is a complex and dynamic profession requiring practitioners educated at levels comparable with other health professions; and

Whereas, In the current system candidates who graduate from diploma, associate degree, or baccalaureate degree programs are all qualified to take the identical licensure exam, are all licensed as Registered Nurses (RNs), and have identical workplace expectations; and

Whereas, proposed legislation in the Assembly and Senate would create a new standard for continued registered nurse (RN) licensure by requiring that RNs earn a bachelor's degree in nursing within ten years of initial licensure; and

Whereas, the requirement of a baccalaureate degree in nursing in 10 years will affect neither nurses currently licensed nor any current nursing students; and

Whereas, studies show that increasing the number of baccalaureate nurses in an acute care hospital decreases the number of patient deaths; and

Whereas, there is a national and state nursing shortage whose fundamental cause is in part a lack of nursing faculty; and

Whereas, a baccalaureate degree in nursing is required for admission to graduate programs to become a faculty member;

Therefore be it Resolved, that the University Faculty Senate of the State University of New York endorses legislation requiring the baccalaureate degrees for permanent registration for nurses.

153-04-1  
Passed without Dissent  
October 24, 2009

