



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

October 6, 2011

Dr. Kenneth P. O'Brien
President
University Faculty Senate
State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Dr. O'Brien,

Thank you for your letter of April 16, 2011, which included summaries of the resolutions of the sector reports presented at the University Faculty Senate's Spring 2011 Plenary. I found the sector reports and the questions and answer exchanges after each report to be useful in understanding concerns of the faculty. I appreciated the opportunity to engage in these discussions and hope you found them useful as well.

I am pleased to provide responses to the following resolutions, as requested:

158-04-1 Resolution on Grade Change Authority

I have discussed this resolution extensively with the Provost, and we feel that it is entirely appropriate. If situations arise in which the spirit of this resolution, i.e., that due process policies are to be in place that comport with the principles outlined in this resolution on each of our state-operated campuses, the Provost will undertake efforts to remedy the situation. If there is a specific campus of concern, please inform the Provost and we will begin the process.

158-03-1 Resolution on Appropriate Use of System-Wide Data

I understand that the faculty of both our state-operated campuses and community colleges are concerned that data collected by system administration not be used to adversely affect individual faculty members. That is certainly not the intent of our data gathering and data-driven assessments, such as the SUNY Report Card.

Our staff in the offices of academic affairs and institutional research have reviewed this resolution. While fully in agreement about preventing gathering or use of data in ways that could adversely affect faculty, the staff feel, and I think rightly so, that this issue is one that impacts all employees and students, and other data sources than those maintained by institutional research. Further, they believe that this issue should be informed by SUNY policy and codified in System and Campus standards of employee conduct.

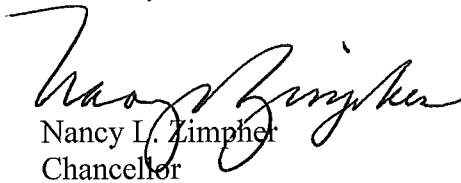
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Therefore, I believe the best course of action is to develop an advisory committee that includes faculty governance representatives as well as other groups charged with proposing such a policy. The policy would include the creation of a standing committee to ensure that SUNY's collection and use of data is always secure and used in appropriate ways that remain with the framework of our policy. I will ask the Provost to make this a matter of utmost priority.

Thank you, Ken, for your partnership and strong continuing leadership of the UFS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy L. Zimpher".

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chancellor

NLZ:jfn

cc: Dr. David Lavalley, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Provost