



THE STATE UNIVERSITY of NEW YORK

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Mr. Carl Wiezalis, President
University Faculty Senate
State University of New York
State University Plaza, Room N-504
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Dear Carl:

Thank you for forwarding the resolutions adopted by the Senate at its January meeting in Farmingdale and its April meeting in Plattsburgh. I am pleased, in this letter, to respond formally to these policy statements.

Resolution 142-01-1 – Resolution to Restore Conversations in the Disciplines Support to Recent Funding Levels

The Conversation in the Disciplines program, established in the mid-1960s, has consistently been a valuable resource in heightening SUNY's visibility and accentuating its prominence across the higher education community as well as enhancing scholarly development and academic discourse across the system. This competitively awarded conference grant program has traditionally been funded at the \$30,000 level. However, in the late 1990s several of the Conversations enjoyed such prominence that the program's funding was increased to \$50,000 per annum. The recent constraints on SUNY's operating budget, however, forced a return to the original funding levels. Should SUNY's budget permit, I would support the reinstatement of the \$50,000 annual funding level for the program.

Resolution 142-02-1 – Special Resolution

I am delighted that the Faculty Senate passed a resolution recognizing the work of Peter Salins as University Provost. We are all indebted to his focus on academic excellence and the impact it will have on the University for years to come.

Resolution 143-01-1 – Resolution to Establish a Website to Advertise Graduate Research and Programs throughout the SUNY System

UNIVERSITY CENTERS AND DOCTORAL DEGREE GRANTING INSTITUTIONS University at Albany • Binghamton University • University at Buffalo • Stony Brook University • SUNY Downstate Medical Center • Upstate Medical University • College of Environmental Science and Forestry • College of Optometry • NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University • NYS College of Agriculture/Life Sciences at Cornell University • NYS College of Human Ecology at Cornell University • NYS College of Industrial/Labor Relations at Cornell University • NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University UNIVERSITY COLLEGES SUNY Brockport • Buffalo State College • SUNY Cortland • Empire State College • SUNY Fredonia • SUNY Geneseo • SUNY New Paltz • SUNY Old Westbury • College at Oneonta • SUNY Oswego • SUNY Plattsburgh • SUNY Potsdam • Purchase College TECHNOLOGY COLLEGES Alfred State College • SUNY Canton • SUNY Cobleskill • SUNY Delhi • Farmingdale State College • Maritime College • Morrisville State College • SUNY Institute of Technology COMMUNITY COLLEGES Adirondack • Broome • Cayuga County • Clinton • Columbia-Greene • Corning • Dutchess • Erie • Fashion Institute of Technology • Finger Lakes • Fulton-Montgomery • Genesee • Herkimer County • Hudson Valley • Jamestown • Jefferson • Mohawk Valley • Monroe • Nassau • Niagara County • North Country • Onondaga • Orange County • Rockland • Schenectady County • Suffolk County • Sullivan County • Tompkins Cortland • Ulster County • Westchester

As part of a comprehensive redesign of its overall data information systems, System Administration has developed a new database for tracking the University's academic programs, the Academic Program Enterprise System (APES). In the APES system the University has, for the first time, a complete, accurate and dynamic record of all its academic programs, in every sector and at all award levels. As part of the APES project, we have begun to develop tools for campuses and prospective students to use in accessing directly information about the University's academic programs. The graduate program search website is one of the first of these tools to be developed. The site is currently undergoing final technical adjustments before being made available in a test version for campuses to review. We anticipate that the test version will be available this summer and that the final version of the site will be unveiled in the fall.

The site will enable prospective graduate students to search for graduate programs by campus, discipline, title, level, and award, and will provide links for each program to the campus' graduate studies webpage. Moreover, because the graduate program search function is performed directly on the APES database, it will automatically be updated in real time as the University modifies its record of graduate programs through the normal review of academic program proposals. This promises to be a genuinely useful resource not only for prospective graduate students, but also for campus faculty and staff, who will be able to use it for advisement and as an information resource for program development.

I am delighted that the Senate views this project favorably. I have asked the Provost's Office to include the President of the Senate when it reports to the University that the website is ready for review and comment.

I have enjoyed our constructive dialogue on a wide variety of issues of importance to the University and look forward to its continuance.

Sincerely,



John R. Ryan

Copy: Dr. Capaldi
Dr. Salins
Mr. O'Connor
Dr. Huot