



The State University of New York
Student Assembly

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUNY Student Assembly President and SUNY Trustee Thomas D. Mastro's statement regarding NYSUNY2020

"The representatives of our 64 campuses came together last year to overwhelmingly pass a resolution supporting the renewal of NYSUNY2020. In a vote of 59-4-1 we said loud and clear that we want fairness, equity, and predictability when it comes to money we spend on our education. I am tired of the mischaracterization that this support is somehow 'students standing in support of increases in their own tuition.'

"Any person or special interest group trying to paint a picture that shows the representative voice of students failing to adequately represent the student voice, is grossly mistaken. The Student Assembly of the State University of New York is the officially recognized and unifying voice of SUNY's 465,000 students.

"We support NYSUNY2020 because we recognize the need for students and families to financially plan ahead.

"The Student Assembly's support of this resolution does not come unconditionally, another point often overlooked by dissenters. The Student Trustee would not and could not vote in the affirmative on continued tuition increases unless the following caveats are fulfilled:

-A true State Maintenance of Effort

-The continued commitment to ensuring that our students' tuition dollars stay on their respective campuses

-That SUNY Administration annually provides a comprehensive report on how the prior year's predictable tuition revenues have been spent and outlining how they have led to the improvement in areas such as academic programs, student supports and services, financial aid, and full-time adjunct faculty supports

-The consultation on tuition matters with our Rational Tuition Task Force comprised of elected and appointed student leaders from across the system

-The Board refraining from consistently raising tuition to its maximum threshold allowable by the current plan

"I am proud to lead this Student Assembly in supporting the renewal of a fair, equitable, and predictable tuition plan which will undoubtedly keep SUNY as a national and international leader in higher education."