MEMORANDUM

December 12, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor
SUBJECT: 2020/21 Operating Budget Request

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves SUNY’s 2020/21 Operating Budget Request to the State of New York.

Resolution

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

Whereas the State University of New York is an integral part of New York State, serving as an educational and economic engine that serves over 35 percent of the State’s total postsecondary education population while providing an eight-to-one return on investment for every dollar that the State invests in the University; and

Whereas the State University has been nationally recognized for its high ranking in the social mobility index, with seventeen SUNY institutions reflected in the top ten percent for propelling students from poverty to prosperity¹ and

Whereas as a reflection of the above, just one single SUNY campus serves more low-income students than the entire Ivy league combined; and

Whereas the State University recognizes that in order to provide the people of the State of New York with educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, and to fulfill its statutory mission, it must provide its students and institutions the ability to plan for affordability in both attendance and operations; and

Whereas it can be expected that the State University will play a pivotal role in the evolution of the State of New York and postsecondary education as they adapt to face the challenges of the mid-21st century; and

Whereas the 2019/20 Enacted State Budget provided essential base support from the State (direct, indirect, and legislative) and authority to expend self-generated revenues that will need to be continued and incrementally increased to meet SUNY’s mission in 2020/21 and beyond; and

Whereas the State University’s operating budget request reflects careful consideration of the State’s fiscal situation, the State University’s operating and capital needs, and the tools needed to support the continued evolution of SUNY and the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the State University work collaboratively to find efficiencies, savings, and other offsets to the essential indirect funding provided by the State for both current and ongoing costs, allowing further direct investment in the SUNY System by the State of New York; and, be it further

Resolved that the proposed operating budget request for the State University of New York (copy on file with the Office of the Secretary and attached to this document), as described in attached background materials, be, and hereby is, approved for the 2020/21 fiscal year; and, be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor, or designee, be, and hereby is, authorized to transmit such budget request to the Director of the New York State Division of the Budget; and, be it further

Resolved that the State University’s capital plan for Educational Facilities, Community Colleges, Residence Halls, and Hospitals, presented separately, be funded in order to support the ongoing operations of the State University system.
Background

The background and justification for the 2020/21 Operating Budget Request is set forth in the attached narrative.