



MEMORANDUM

January 25, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Deborah F. Stanley, Interim Chancellor

SUBJECT: Creation of a Task Force to Recommend a System-wide Policy Encouraging the Elimination of Single-Use Plastics

Action Requested

This resolution authorizes the creation of a Task Force on the Elimination of Single-Use Plastics at SUNY, in accordance with recently enacted New York State legislation. In addition, this resolution would authorize the Chancellor, or designee, to adopt any policy, procedure, or guidance deemed necessary following the recommendations of the Task Force.

Resolution

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

Whereas, Governor Kathy Hochul has taken an active leadership role in advancing the environmental protections for New Yorkers; and

Whereas, on November 2, 2021, Governor Hochul signed into law Chapter 553 of the Laws of 2021, relating to the elimination of the use of certain single use plastic items at New York's public university campuses; and

Whereas, New York State and the State University of New York are committed to protecting New York's environmental resources and recognize the need to take concrete and demonstrable steps to reduce the State University's use of less sustainable and less environmentally friendly products; now therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Chancellor, or designee, is authorized and directed to create a Task Force on Single Use Plastics, which

shall include appropriate and applicable representation from, but not limited to, students, faculty, staff, and representatives of the Auxiliary Service Corporations (ASC) who manage dining services on campus; and be it further

Resolved, that the Task Force shall be charged with developing an action plan, recommended timeline, and associated policies for the elimination of single-use plastics on all State University campuses, and shall consider the following in developing their recommendations: the availability of affordable alternatives; the accessibility of alternatives to all students, faculty, and staff; an evaluation of the effectiveness of reusable alternatives; and benchmarks for assessing progress; and be it further

Resolved, that the Chancellor or designee is authorized and directed to issue any policy, procedures, and/or guidance deemed necessary to implement the recommendations of the Task Force.

Background

On November 2, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul signed into law Chapter 553 of the Laws of 2021, relating to the elimination of the use of certain single use plastic items at New York's public university campuses. In order to implement this new legislation, and to ensure a robust effort to reduce single-use plastics across the SUNY System, this resolution establishes a Task Force to encourage the elimination of single-use plastics on SUNY campuses, leveraging input from stakeholders across the SUNY System. This resolution further authorizes the Chancellor or designee to adopt any policy, procedures, and/or guidance deemed necessary to implement the recommendations of the task force. These changes will allow SUNY students, faculty, and staff to take concrete daily steps to advance New York State's efforts in protecting the vast and impressive environmental resources of the Empire State.