

REVISED

MEMORANDUM

October 6, 2017

To: Members of the Board of Trustees

From: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

Subject: Tuition for Students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Displaced by Hurricanes Maria and Irma

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the extension of resident tuition rates for the 2017/18 academic year to undergraduate and graduate students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who have been displaced by Hurricanes Maria and Irma and who are attending a State-operated institution of the State University of New York. The proposed resolution also encourages the boards of trustees of the 30 community colleges operating under the program of the State University of New York and the boards of trustees of the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred Ceramics, to take similar action.

Resolution

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

Whereas a substantial number of students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have been displaced as a consequence of Hurricanes Maria and Irma; and

Whereas the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to be disaster areas in accordance with Major Disaster Declarations 4335, 4336, 4339 and 4340; and

Whereas the infrastructures of these island communities have been substantially undermined by these hurricanes; and

Whereas universities and higher education associations across the country are making efforts to assist students

displaced by Hurricanes Maria and Irma in the most expeditious and humanitarian manner possible; and

Whereas Governor Cuomo has called upon SUNY to offer resident tuition rates to students displaced by these storms; and

Whereas the Board wishes to extend the benefit of resident tuition rates to students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who have been displaced by Hurricanes Maria and Irma as a humanitarian response which acknowledges these students' *de facto* New York State residency status due to their inability to return home; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Chancellor or designee be, and hereby is, authorized to amend the State University of New York guidelines governing residency for tuition purposes to make undergraduate and graduate students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who have been displaced by either Hurricane Maria or Irma eligible for resident tuition rates for the 2017/18 academic year at SUNY State-operated institutions; and, be it further

Resolved that the boards of trustees of the 30 community colleges operating under the program of the State University of New York, and the boards of trustees of the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred Ceramics, be, and hereby are, encouraged to take similar action or to otherwise provide assistance and support to facilitate the ability of these students to continue their academic studies at the State University of New York.

Background

The landfall of Hurricanes Maria and Irma in September 2017 had devastating consequences for residents of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In response to these disasters, the Board wishes to extend resident tuition rates to students from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who have been displaced by Hurricanes Maria and Irma. Because these students have been displaced and will be unable to maintain their home domicile in the impacted regions of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, it is appropriate to provide them with resident status under the SUNY Tuition Policy governing the State-operated campuses for the 2017/18 academic year. Accordingly, this proposed resolution would authorize the Chancellor or designee to amend the University's guidelines governing residency for tuition purposes to classify the

impacted group of students as residents who will be charged in-state tuition for the 2017/18 academic year. This resolution also encourages the boards of the community colleges and statutory colleges to take appropriate action to provide assistance and support to these students.