



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

MEMORANDUM

June 16, 2015

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Adoption of an Enterprise Risk Management Program

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the adoption of an Enterprise Risk Management Program for the State University of New York.

Resolution

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

Whereas the State University of New York is subject to strategic, financial, operational, compliance, and reputational risks; and

Whereas SUNY is committed to implementing and utilizing an Enterprise Risk Management (“ERM”) Program for identifying, assessing, and managing risks and opportunities to effectuate the achievement of SUNY’s goals and objectives; and

Whereas the adoption of an ERM Program will leverage and enhance SUNY’s existing formalized programs of internal control and compliance; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the document entitled “Enterprise Risk Management Program,” dated June 15, 2015, be and hereby is, adopted as University policy with respect to ERM; and, be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor, or designee, be and hereby is authorized, in consultation with the Audit Committee, to develop and issue, as may be necessary from time to time, supplemental ERM guidelines consistent with the ERM Program adopted by this resolution

Background

SUNY is a large, diverse, and complex institution that is subject to a number of risks. As such, SUNY must seek to mitigate those risks to ensure that it is meeting its goals and objectives.

An ERM Program is a formal and continuous process that is designed to identify, assess, and manage risks and opportunities. Correctly implemented, ERM can help to ensure that SUNY meets its strategic goals and objectives by coordinating and focusing SUNY's numerous risk management activities; creating a "risk-aware" culture; providing a formal mechanism for responding to significant events; and enhancing collaboration and communication throughout the University.

Key components of SUNY's ERM Program include an ERM Committee; the appointment of a Director of Risk Management at System Administration; coordination of risk, internal controls, and compliance matters; assessments to identify and measure SUNY's risks and opportunities; development of risk remediation plans; employee risk management training; communication throughout the SUNY system on risk; and periodic reports of risk management activities to the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Because risk management is a continuous and evolving process, this resolution authorizes the Chancellor, or designee, in consultation with the Audit Committee, to develop and issue, as may be necessary from time to time, supplemental ERM guidelines consistent with SUNY's ERM Program.