



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

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MEMORANDUM

April 28, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

**SUBJECT: Reappointment of Dr. Bonita R. Durand as President of SUNY
Buffalo State University**

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the reappointment of Interim President Durand as President Durand for the duration of her term.

Resolution

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

Whereas Interim President Durand retired in 2018 after 22 years of service to SUNY Buffalo State University, where she served under five presidents, including as Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Buffalo State Council; and

Whereas Interim President Durand also served as a member of the graduate faculty in the Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration Department, teaching courses on the history of American higher education and on strategic planning and finance in higher education; and

Whereas Interim President Durand was appointed interim president of SUNY Buffalo State University in June 2023, and her tenure has been characterized by an urgent commitment to SUNY Buffalo State University's future; deep collaboration with students, faculty, and staff; and service to the Buffalo State and broader Western New York communities; and

Whereas during the search for the next permanent president, Interim President Durand has provided strong and stable leadership for SUNY Buffalo State University, focused on recognizing the importance of improving enrollment, retention, and completion and achieving operational sustainability to ensure the long-term success of SUNY Buffalo State University; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York recognizes the valuable contributions to SUNY Buffalo State University by Interim President Durand, and thanks her for her service; and, be it further,

Resolved that Interim President Durand is reappointed as President Durand for the duration of her term.

Background

Interim President Durand retired in 2018 after 22 years of service to SUNY Buffalo State, where she served as chief of staff and secretary to the Buffalo State Council. Durand served under five presidents at Buffalo State during her tenure. In addition, she was a graduate faculty member in the university's Higher Education Administration Department, where she taught courses on the history of American higher education and strategic planning and finance in higher education. Durand provided leadership to countless committees and working groups at Buffalo State, including the Middle States accreditation steering committee, the presidential inauguration support committees, the facilities master planning committee, and the presidential search advisory committees. She has also served as the faculty advisor for the collegiate chapter of the National Council of Negro Women and the campus adviser for the Gamma Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

In June 2023, Durand was called on to again serve Buffalo State University when the SUNY Board of Trustees named her Interim President. In this role, Durand has worked tirelessly to meet the evolving needs of students and the Western New York community. As Interim President, Durand oversaw the implementation of Buffalo State's first doctoral program, a Doctor of Professional Studies in Creativity and Change Leadership that will launch in Fall 2026. Durand has positioned Buffalo State for continued enrollment growth, including significant gains in retention. Interim President Durand has set Buffalo State on a path to financial sustainability, with the university on target to eliminate its structural deficit through difficult decisions and an inclusive engagement with campus stakeholders.

An active member of the Western New York Community, Durand has dedicated her time to numerous organizations across the city and region.