



MEMORANDUM

December 13, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Deborah F. Stanley, Interim Chancellor

SUBJECT: Implementing a Roadmap to a Reunification of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering with State University of New York at Albany

Action Requested

The proposed resolution initiates the process to transfer the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), presently under the administrative authority of the State University of New York Polytechnic Institute (SUNY Poly), to the State University of New York at Albany (UAlbany).

Resolution

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

Whereas CNSE was originally created in 2004 as a College within University at Albany (UAlbany) and, because of early investments in CNSE, the College was enabled to become a leading player in the nanotechnology research and education space; and

Whereas CNSE was later transferred to being under the administrative authority of what became known as SUNY Polytechnic Institute (SUNY Poly) in 2014; and

Whereas despite the move of administrative functions to SUNY Poly's Marcy campus in Utica, CNSE faculty, students and staff have remained on site in Albany since 2014; and

Whereas Governor Hochul's 2022 State of the State initiative to transform and strengthen the future of SUNY included a proposal to reunite CNSE with UAlbany in order to streamline

and ensure effective day-to-day management, promote research excellence, and strategically advance the vision to cement SUNY's status as the nation's premier system of public higher education; and

Whereas Governor Hochul's transformative vision for SUNY includes the empowerment of - and investment in - SUNY Poly Utica to strategically grow their successful programs in engineering and nursing while strengthening their position as a premier public polytechnic and destination for economic and workforce development focused on nanotechnology and the integration of chip technology in new and innovate ways, including the needs of the Air Force Research Laboratory; and

Whereas this proposed reunification would empower CNSE and UAlbany to capitalize on their geographic proximity and individual strengths, and would have multiple benefits to both institutions, including research output, enrollment impact, and institutional reputation; and

Whereas UAlbany is an R1 institution designating "very high research activity" in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Learning; and

Whereas with the current national spotlight on the semiconductor industry and New York State's emergence as a global leader in chips research and development, merging a revitalized CNSE with the vibrant research and education opportunities of an R1 SUNY University Center like UAlbany, as well as supporting the expansion of SUNY Poly and its' local ecosystem will allow for greater regional and statewide coordination of the broader nanotechnology research and economic development agenda; and

Whereas On Tuesday, December 13, Chancellor Stanley announced the appointment of Dr. Andrew Russell as temporary Officer in Charge of SUNY Poly; and

Whereas On Tuesday, December 13, Chancellor Stanley charged the SUNY Poly College Council to immediately launch a national search for a Permanent President of SUNY Poly Utica; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that the Board of Trustees begins the process to transfer CNSE from being under the administrative authority of SUNY Poly to being under the administrative authority of SUNY Albany, becoming once again a College fully within UAlbany; and be it further

Resolved that this transferal shall not impact continued operational management of SUNY Poly's Marcy campus; be it further

Resolved that the Officer-in-Charge of SUNY Poly be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to begin the process of creating a robust strategic plan along with local stakeholders strengthening the future of SUNY Poly Utica as the premier public Polytech school in the state and nation without CNSE under its administrative authority, including a consideration to partner with all levels of educational institutions and economic development partners, to be completed no later than December 2023, unless a later date is agreed to by the Chancellor or designee; and be it further

Resolved that the President of UAlbany, in consultation with the Chancellor or designee and the Officer-in-Charge of SUNY Poly be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to create a detailed master plan, timeline, and accounting of debts to effectuate the transfer of CNSE to UAlbany, to be completed no later than December 2023, unless a later date is agreed to by the Chancellor or designee; and be it further

Resolved that a core principle of such master plan for reunification must be ensuring proper consideration of student interests, and

Resolved that the Chancellor or designee be, and hereby is, authorized to take any and all administrative actions necessary and appropriate to assist in the planning and preparedness for such transfer.

