MEMORANDUM

September 25, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Commendation of the Co-Chairs of the SUNY Food Insecurity Task Force

Action Requested

The proposed resolution commends the Co-Chairs of the SUNY Food Insecurity Task Force for their outstanding leadership and completion of the Task Force charge.

Resolution

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

Whereas the SUNY Food Insecurity Task Force (“Task Force”) was established by the Chancellor in 2017 to study the issue of food insecurity generally and across SUNY, to recommend necessary changes to alleviate this serious issue, and to report on its progress to the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas the charge of the Task Force was subsequently expanded to support and advance Governor Cuomo’s “No Student Goes Hungry Campaign; and

Whereas Dr. Anne Kress, President of Monroe Community College and Ms. Randi Shubin Dresner, President and CEO of Island Harvest, were appointed as Task Force Co-Chairs; and

Whereas Dr. Kress and Ms. Shubin Dresner have led the Task Force with distinction, working in partnership with the talented and experienced members of the Task Force, SUNY’s Office of University Life, the
leadership of every SUNY campus, and multiple community, state and federal programs and organizations to identify and systematically achieve project priorities; and

Whereas Dr. Kress and Ms. Shubin Dresner kept the University community and the public apprised of Task Force work via a series of quarterly progress reports broadly shared and made available online, and shared their progress with the Student Life Committee of the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas under the leadership of Dr. Kress and Ms. Shubin Dresner, the Task Force made certain key accomplishments, including: 1) providing information, resources and support to ensure that every SUNY campus either had a food pantry on site or a partnership with an off-campus food pantry to provide students with stigma-free access to food; 2) engaging agency partners to increase student awareness of resources available under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”); 3) compiling information, resources and best practices regarding food insecurity; 4) launching a dedicated annual meeting on food insecurity to provide opportunities for SUNY campuses to learn from one another; and, 5) developing a final report and recommendations which were presented to the Student Life Committee; and

Whereas the commitment of Dr. Kress and Ms. Shubin Dresner to this work has elevated the call to action about hunger on campuses and focused attention on ways in which SUNY can support students in need; now, therefore, be it

Resolved the Board of Trustees commends Dr. Anne Kress and Ms. Randi Shubin Dresner for their outstanding leadership of the SUNY Food Insecurity Task Force.