



**MEMORANDUM**

**March 19, 2014**

**TO: Members of the Board of Trustees**

**FROM: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor**

**SUBJECT: Transfer of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering from the State University of New York at Albany to the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome**

**Action Requested**

The proposed resolution authorizes the combination of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), and all of its related academic programs, presently under the administrative authority of the State University of New York at Albany (UAlbany), with the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome (SUNYIT). The resolution authorizes Master Plan amendments to allow the new SUNYIT to award degrees at the Ph.D. level in the areas of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. Once the transfer is complete and upon appropriate consultation with the SUNYIT College Council and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, SUNYIT will be renamed the State University of New York Institute of Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology (SUNY INSET).

**Resolution**

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

Whereas the State University of New York Institute of Technology (SUNYIT) at Utica-Rome was originally established under the authority of the SUNY Board of Trustees on June 14, 1966 as a public polytechnic institution; and

Whereas the State University Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the nation's first College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) at the State University of New York at Albany in 2004, with a distinctive and focused

mission, to deliver academic programs in nanoscale science and engineering; and

Whereas pursuant to Resolution No. 2008-165, adopted on November 18, 2008, the SUNY Board of Trustees granted CNSE expanded management, administrative, financial, and academic autonomy and promoted its head to the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Executive Officer with full administrative, academic, and fiscal authority, fully comparable and equal to the authority exercised by a SUNY President in the administration of an assigned campus; and

Whereas pursuant to Resolution 2013-52 the SUNY Board of Trustees endorsed the implementation of the separation of CNSE from the rest of the UAlbany administrative structure and directed the establishment of a new degree-granting structure to include CNSE; and

Whereas a merger between SUNYIT and CNSE would leverage the collective strengths of both entities on an equitable basis to: create unparalleled opportunities for current and future students from the Mohawk Valley and the whole of New York State in terms of access to current and future SUNYIT/CNSE programs and facilities; promote enrollment growth at SUNYIT and CNSE; support academic program and full-time faculty expansion at SUNYIT and CNSE; and, promote economic revitalization of the Mohawk Valley and New York State; and

Whereas UAlbany and CNSE have been actively engaged in completing a services agreement, which will be shared with the finance committee of the Board of Trustees, to ensure that all undergraduate students enrolled in an academic program offered at the CNSE campus in Albany have sufficient and appropriate access to all necessary general education coursework, residential services, and health/wellness services and associated opportunities completely comparable to undergraduate students enrolled at UAlbany; now, therefore be it

Resolved that CNSE be transferred from the administrative authority of UAlbany to SUNYIT. Such administrative authority shall pertain to all land, facilities, equipment or other properties or supplies currently associated with CNSE under the administrative authority of UAlbany at the time of this resolution. Such administrative authority shall also pertain to all students, employees, and related academic programs formally associated with CNSE; and be it further

Resolved that in such transfer of employees to the administrative authority of SUNYIT, the intent is to simply change the appointing authority from UAlbany to SUNYIT without altering any affected employee's rights, entitlements, appointment status or bargaining unit membership as may exist at the time of this resolution under applicable law, rule, regulation or collective bargaining agreement. Such change in appointing authority shall not constitute an interruption in service. Service under the administrative authority of UAlbany shall be considered as service under the administrative authority of SUNYIT for any and all matters wherein length of service or consecutive service is a consideration; and be it further

Resolved that the State University of New York Master Plan be, and hereby is, amended to authorize SUNYIT to confer the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nanoscale Science and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in Nanoscale Engineering; and that the Nanoscale Engineering and Nanoscale Science academic programs at all award levels now registered at UAlbany be transferred to SUNYIT; and be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor be, and hereby is, authorized to transmit this amendment to the Board of Regents and the Governor for incorporation in the State University of New York Master Plan; and be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor, subject to all applicable rules and regulations, be, and hereby is, authorized to take any and all remaining administrative actions necessary to effectuate, or cause to effectuate the transfer of CNSE from the administrative authority of UAlbany to SUNYIT; and be it further

Resolved that, upon completion of the transfer of CNSE and all related components, as well as after appropriate consultation with the SUNYIT College Council and subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, SUNYIT shall be renamed the State University of New York Institute of Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology, having co-principal centers comprised of the current SUNYIT campus at Utica-Rome and the current CNSE campus in Albany, NY; and

Resolved that subject to appropriate Board approval, Dr. Alain E. Kaloyeros shall provide chief executive leadership for the combined institution; and be it further

Resolved that the Chancellor shall provide the Board of Trustees with periodic updates on the progress toward the completion of the administrative transfer and merger.

### **Background**

The transfer of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), presently part of the State University of New York at Albany (UAlbany), and all related academic programs, to the State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica-Rome (SUNYIT) will create a re-envisioned SUNY degree-granting institution. Once the transfer is complete, including obtaining appropriate approvals from the New York State Board of Regents and subject to the approval of the SUNY Board of Trustees, SUNYIT will be renamed State University of New York Institute of Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology (SUNY INSET).

The merger between CNSE and SUNYIT will create a new science, engineering, and technology research and education institution—with co-principal locations in Albany and Utica-Rome—that is unique in the SUNY system with access to the most advanced, extensive and complete nanotechnology research and development infrastructure and academic nanotechnology degree portfolio of any university in the world. And, by coupling CNSE's nanotechnology programs with the academic program assets and infrastructure at SUNYIT, the merged institution will create an unequalled conduit to advance the fields of engineering, engineering technology, computer science, business, health-science, social sciences, and related disciplines through the intrinsically interdisciplinary framework of 21<sup>st</sup> century higher education.

The merger was formally endorsed by the SUNYIT College Council on December 5, 2013 and in accordance with the SUNY Board of Trustees policies

and guidelines, and in recognition of the paramount leadership role of faculty play in the merger process, the Chair of the SUNYIT Faculty Council participated in that process. Subsequent to the SUNYIT College Council action, the Chairs of the SUNYIT Faculty and Staff Assemblies were thoroughly briefed by the SUNYIT Acting President. Concurrently, the SUNYIT Acting President initiated the formation of a SUNYIT governance advisory group to interface with the faculty governance and leadership at CNSE and the governance bodies at SUNYIT. This working group included both the Chairs of the SUNYIT faculty and Staff Assemblies, SUNY ITs representative on the University Faculty Senate, as well as wide representation from SUNYIT's faculty and staff.

An identical consultation process with CNSE faculty, student, and staff was implemented. Along the same timeline as the SUNYIT faculty briefing schedule, the Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer of CNSE briefed the chair and members of the CNSE faculty, staff, and student council, and formed two advisory groups of faculty, staff, and students (one involving graduate, and the other undergraduate students) to advise on the merger and coordinate the future relationship with UAlbany.

A joint SUNYIT/CNSE working group was subsequently formed of SUNYIT and CNSE faculty and staff, including the Chair and Secretary of the CNSE Council, the Chairs of the SUNYIT Faculty and Staff Assemblies, and SUNYIT's SUNY Senator. The joint SUNYIT-CNSE working group held meetings during January, February and March of 2014 to discuss goals and priorities regarding the merger, provide periodic briefings to the governance bodies of the respective institutions, and present recommendations on the desired governance structure. The group has reviewed and provided valuable input on the briefing document that was provided to the SUNY Board of Trustees.

To complement the SUNYIT/CNSE working group assembled by the SUNYIT Acting President, the SUNYIT Faculty Assembly established its own Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of providing a broader consultative faculty voice in the merger regarding the developing relationship between the two institutions. This group entered into constructive engagement with the CNSE working group including key principals of merged operation and academic unification models. The SUNYIT Ad Hoc Committee also put forth a plan calling for the faculties (and staffs) of the two campuses to develop a joint, "federated" governance model consistent with the Policies of the Board of Trustees.

The outcomes to date of these ongoing consultation processes is the advancement of a governance and consultation framework for SUNY INSET that enables active and full participation by the respective faculty and staff at both Albany and Utica-Rome sites, enabling each constituent body to build on each other in a constructive and mutually-beneficial fashion, while catalyzing intellectual

cross-fertilization and free exchanges of new ideas and novel concepts that would lead to further development and refinement of scholarly pursuits, instructional concepts, and interdisciplinary undertakings. Most importantly, this governance framework promotes new and exciting academic partnerships between the Albany and Utica-Rome sites to strengthen current academic programs, and open new academic pathways, and pedagogical delivery platforms.

The co-existence of the two complementary academic models within a coherent organizational and faculty governance framework enables them to build on each other in a constructive and mutually-beneficial fashion, while catalyzing intellectual cross-fertilization and free exchanges of new ideas and novel concepts that will lead to further development and refinement of scholarly pursuits, instructional concepts, and interdisciplinary undertakings that will greatly benefit SUNY faculty and students.

SUNY INSET will provide the current SUNYIT with further academic growth and greater scholarly impact by enhancing its status and allowing it to tap into CNSE's vast resources and global network to build on and enhance its mission of "...providing an intellectually stimulating learning environment and prepares students to fully engage in the challenges, complexities, and opportunities of living in a modern technological society...." In this respect, the partnership will strengthen current academic programs at SUNYIT and CNSE, and will open new academic pathways and pedagogical delivery platforms for faculty and students to engage in and benefit from CNSE's cutting edge educational, research, workforce development, and outreach programs.

Furthermore, the merger will rapidly enable SUNYIT's aspirations to be the regional leader in the Mohawk Valley in higher education, diversify its student and employee populations, and provide cutting-edge workforce training in the fields of engineering, science, technology, business, social sciences, health science and in the emerging disciplines of nanotechnology. As such, the merger will clearly position the co-principal SUNY INSET location in Utica-Rome, as a powerful engine for economic revitalization of the regional economy and a catalyst for enhancing the quality of life of the Mohawk Valley's citizens.

SUNY INSET will be designed to allow greater intellectual connectivity to UAlbany and enable a collegial and collaborative SUNY INSET-UAlbany relationship that continues and augments the current UAlbany-CNSE interactions. In addition to the current cross-disciplinary M.S./MBA programs in Nanoscale Engineering/Business Administration and Nanoscale Science/Business Administration in partnership with the UAlbany School of Business, potential collaborative opportunities are evident, for example, in the areas of public health, social sciences, public policy, natural and biophysical sciences, and engineering.

The reconfigured institution will also provide a robust and coherent intellectual pathway for its faculty and students to engage with and take advantage of CNSE's statewide network of innovation, education, and economic development facilities and partnerships across Upstate New York. CNSE's NanoFab megaplex in Albany; its photovoltaic and green energy facilities in Malta; its Smart Systems Technology and Commercialization Center of Excellence and Solar Manufacturing and Development Facility in Rochester; the Computer Chip Commercialization Center and Marcy Nanocenter site in Utica-Rome; the Medical Innovation and Commercialization Hub, the Buffalo High-Tech Manufacturing Innovation Hub at RiverBend, and the Buffalo Information Technologies Hub are examples of the regional public-private partnerships in research, development, commercialization and workforce training that the merged institution can draw on for the benefit of SUNY students, faculty, and staff.

This resolution authorizes CNSE, and all related land, facilities, equipment or other properties, employees, and students under the administrative authority of the UAlbany to be transferred to SUNYIT. Academically, the merger will be treated as a transfer revision of CNSE's current academic programs with no modifications other than changing the institutional home. CNSE's programs will be re-registered under SUNYIT and discontinued at the University at Albany. This transfer will require that the State University Master Plan be amended to authorize the SUNYIT to confer the Doctor of Philosophy degree and offer programs at the doctoral level, in a limited scope, in Nanoscale Science and in Nanoscale Engineering, in the discipline of Engineering.

The Ph.D. degree program in Nanoscale Science and the Ph.D. degree program in Nanoscale Engineering have been continually operating at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering at the University at Albany since 2006, with a current enrollment of 140 doctoral students. The Nanoscale Science doctoral program provides the critical theoretical and experimental skill base and know-how for knowledge creation in the areas of nanoscale materials, structures, and architectures. The Nanoscale Engineering doctoral program provides corresponding skill and expertise in the design, fabrication, and integration of nanoscale devices, structures, and systems for the development and deployment of emerging nanotechnologies. Both Ph.D. programs require completion of 60 credits. Appropriate doctoral candidacy exams, doctoral dissertation research and a successful dissertation defense and final dissertation submission are required. As the Ph.D. degree program in Nanoscale Science and the Ph.D. degree program in Nanoscale Engineering are currently active and operating at the highest academic quality at CNSE, sufficient resources are in place to maintain operation. CNSE's current faculty will continue to support the Ph.D. programs, and, upon completion of the merger, faculty at the current SUNYIT campus in Utica-Rome will also be available to support these programs as appropriate.

Students currently enrolled in graduate or undergraduate programs at CNSE and SUNYIT will be given the choice to graduate from the institution into which they were admitted (i.e. SUNYIT or UAlbany) or from SUNY INSET after the transfer has created that new combined institution. Students admitted to SUNY INSET after its creation will be awarded their degrees from SUNY INSET, while students admitted as either UAlbany students with a minor at SUNY INSET or vice versa will receive their degrees from the institution of their major, respectively, UAlbany or SUNY INSET.