



The State University  
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

State University Plaza  
Albany, New York 12246

[www.suny.edu](http://www.suny.edu)

## **MEMORANDUM**

**May 4, 2016**

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

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

**SUBJECT: Campus-Related Foundations**

### **Action Requested**

The proposed resolution approves the amendment to the Foundation Guidelines policy.

### **Resolution**

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

Whereas the State-operated campuses of the State University of New York have contracts with campus-related foundations (“foundations”) which were created to assist the State University in advancing and achieving its objectives, goals and mission; and

Whereas the State University is committed to ensuring that the activities of these foundations are properly conducted, with sound financial management practices, and appropriate levels of accountability, transparency and oversight by the State University; and

Whereas the activities and operation of the foundations are subject to the guidelines set forth in State University Policy No. 9600, *Foundations Guidelines, Campus-Related* (“Foundation Guidelines”); and

Whereas on November 15, 2013, the Board of Trustees approved two resolutions (Resolution Nos. 2013-068 and 2013-069) supporting the Chancellor's initiative to strengthen

compliance, accountability, and transparency for compensation and related issues; and

Whereas on November 15, 2013, the Board of Trustees, directed System Administration to examine certain matters relating to campus-related entities, subsidiaries and affiliates; and

Whereas, a task force on “affiliates” was formed to address the matters set forth by the Board of Trustees and outlined in the November 15, 2013 resolutions; and

Whereas the task force concluded that more specificity was needed in the Foundation Guidelines with respect to financial responsibility, accountability, transparency and oversight; and

Whereas the task force recommended that the Foundation Guidelines be amended to provide, among other things, that each foundation establish/maintain a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance of the achievement of objectives, reliability of financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, effectiveness and efficiency of operations and compliance with laws and regulations, and adhere to written guidelines when forming their own affiliates; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that Policy No. 9600, *Foundations Guidelines, Campus-Related* is amended and restated in the form attached to this resolution.

### **Background**

Since 1975, the State University has had guidelines in place relating to campus-related foundations. In November 2013, the Board of Trustees passed two resolutions supporting the Chancellor's initiative to strengthen compliance, accountability, and transparency for compensation and related issues and directed that a task force on affiliates be formed to address the matters raised in those resolutions. The task force concluded that more specificity was needed in the State University's existing policy related to campus-related foundations.

Attachment