

University Faculty Senate  
Ethics Committee  
174<sup>th</sup> Plenary  
SUNY Cortland  
October 22, 2016

### Resolution for SUNY Ethics Review

**Whereas** SUNY's commitment to educational excellence and public service should include leadership in fostering the highest internal standards and practices of ethics and integrity; and

**Whereas** SUNY resources and its reputation as a whole are at stake whenever there are highly publicized situations that raise public concerns about oversight, integrity and accountability in SUNY and its related entities; and

**Whereas** there have been several high-profile ethics cases in recent years within SUNY<sup>1</sup>; and

**Whereas** SUNY can address public concerns by proactively encouraging an overall culture of accountability and by creating a structure that reduces the risk of such situations occurring in the future; and

**Whereas** the entire SUNY University Faculty Senate adopted a statement of ethical principles to affirm its commitment to the highest ethical standards<sup>2</sup>; therefore

**Be it Resolved** that the University Faculty Senate:

1. Urges the Chancellor and Board of Trustees to develop and conduct a periodic ethics review of SUNY campuses, SUNY-related nonprofits, and of System Administration;

2. Work with the Chancellor in designing the ethics review to encourage ethical leadership that goes beyond (but includes) minimal compliance with the law<sup>3</sup>;

3. Include in the ethics review or assessment of institutional policies and procedures addressing the following topics (among others), using the UFS resolution on ethical principles as a guiding document<sup>1</sup>:

a) ethics training and programs for fostering high standards of integrity among leadership, staff, faculty, and students; b) disclosure and management of conflicts of interest; c) whistleblower protections; d) duties and activities of the institutional ethics officer; e) identification of fiduciary obligations of leadership and governing boards; f) transparency and compliance with state law governing open meetings and freedom of information; and g) criteria and process for assessing institutional leadership on integrity and ethics.

4. Ensure that each ethics review report is transparent and accessible to the public.

<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Thomas Kaplan, *Under Scrutiny, Official at State University Resigns*, N.Y. TIMES (June 3, 2011) (reporting the resignation of John J. O'Connor, SUNY Secretary and Senior Vice Chancellor and Research Foundation President, following accusations that he gave a no-show job to a relative of a state political

leader); James T. Mulder, *Upstate Medical President is Resigning "...to avoid further Distraction for the University"*, SYRACUSE.COM (Nov. 7, 2013) (reporting that SUNY had placed the President on leave pending an investigation of inappropriate compensation); Matthew Hamilton, *Complaint Charges SUNY Poly's Kaloyeros, Developer Niccola With Bid-rigging*, ALBANY TIMES-UNION (Sept. 22, 2016) (reporting federal and state felony charges against the SUNY Poly president).

<sup>2</sup> UFS 173-02-1 Resolution for a Statement of Ethical Principles, Spring 2016

<sup>3</sup> For guidelines for a university ethics review, see Nathan E. Harris & Michael N. Bastedo, *Corruption at the Top: Ethical Dilemmas in College and University Governance*, pp. 115 -132, appendix pp.128-30 in *CREATING THE ETHICAL ACADEMY: A SYSTEMS APPROACH TO UNDERSTANDING MISCONDUCT AND EMPOWERING CHANGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION* (Tricia Bertram Gallant, ed. Routledge 2011) .

### **174-03-3**

#### **Resolution for SUNY Ethics Review**

#### **Referred back to Ethics**