

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Operations Committee
RE: Recommendation on Broad-Based Fees
DATE: 177th Plenary, October 19-21, 2017
LOCATION: SUNY Delhi
RESOLUTION #: 177-04-1
VOTE TALLY: For: 40; Against: 1; Abstain: 1

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS stagnant direct state financial support and increasing operating costs have led to increasing broad-based fees for student services, with an average increase of 24.3% from 2011/12 to 2016/17 (with a range from 15.9% in the technology sector to 17.0% in the comprehensive college sector to 41.3% in the doctoral sector and to 43.5% in the university centers sector)¹; and

WHEREAS financial aid, in some cases, is not sufficient to cover the cost of these fees; and

WHEREAS students and their families may view fees at SUNY institutions negatively and may therefore opt to enroll elsewhere²;

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate recommend to campuses and campus leadership that broad-based fees be closely scrutinized to ensure the appropriate balance of addressing student services, fiscal need, and long-term institutional financial viability, student access, success, and completion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that campuses work closely with SUNY System Administration to ensure that all broad-based fees are implemented and administered in line with appropriate policy and guidelines (See [SUNY policy document 7804: Fees, Rentals, and Other Charges](#), effective 9/20/11).

BACKGROUND:

¹Calculations by Operations Committee member, Dr. David Vitt, Assistant Professor of Economics at Farmingdale State College, identifies the rate of inflation from 2011-2016 for the average college student to be between 1.2%-1.58% based on Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED) and compares this rate to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) which shows higher education prices increasing at an average rate of 2.04% during the same period of 2011-2016.

²Helmet and Marcotte (2008) estimate a tuition elasticity of demand for college that suggests for a given percentage increase in tuition, enrollment will fall by 0.1 times that percentage change in tuition. Increases in fees likely have a similar enrollment and revenue impact which should be considered.