



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Executive Committee
RE: University Faculty Senate's Response to Charter School Committee of SUNY Board of Trustees
DATE: 177th Plenary, October 19-21, 2017
LOCATION: SUNY Delhi
RESOLUTION #: 177-06-1
VOTE TALLY: For: 40; Against: 1; Abstain: 0

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS on October 11, 2017, the State University of New York Board of Trustees Charter Schools Committee approved regulations (NYCRR T. 8, Ch. V, Subch. E, Pt. 700, Subchapter E. Regulations of the Board of Trustees' Charter Schools Committee) that establish a process by which certain charter schools may establish their own criteria for certification of their own teachers; and

WHEREAS the State University of New York Board of Trustees approved TeachNY in June 2017 as the policy governing educator preparation for SUNY programs; and

WHEREAS TeachNY resulted from two years of in-depth discussions among national experts, university faculty and administrator, practicing teachers and school administrators, students, and members of the SUNY Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS attendance policies apply to all students, including students within the United States Military community¹, who are held to the same standards as other students relative to classroom attendance policies; and

WHEREAS TeachNY resulted from two years of in-depth discussions among national experts, university faculty and administrator, practicing teachers and school administrators, students, and members of the SUNY Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS SUNY's educator preparation programs are staged over a number of semesters to ensure that there is adequate time to develop and deepen both content knowledge and the practice of teaching in a variety of instructional environments with diverse students; and

WHEREAS SUNY's educator preparation programs have been evaluated by external accreditation agencies, unlike the untried and untested process approved in the Charter School regulations; and

WHEREAS the Charter School regulations fail to meet the quality demands of SUNY's educator preparation programs: not in the demonstrated quality of incoming students, not in the time needed to develop a deep understanding of the relationship between content and pedagogy, not in providing specification of the knowledge and skills teachers need to master BEFORE they enter the classroom, nor in the extent of pre-service clinical experience; and

WHEREAS the Charter School regulations were developed without engaging the existing expertise of the university community to seek solutions to problems with teacher recruitment and retention other than to lower the qualifications of potential teachers, nor have proponents explained why Charter School students do not

deserve the best prepared teachers; and

WHEREAS public officials including the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, the Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, other members of the Legislature, the Commissioner of the State Education Department, and the Chancellor of the State Regents, as well as leaders of SUNY teacher education programs and leaders of state and national teachers' organizations, have opposed this action of the Charter Schools Committee; and

WHEREAS to protect its residents, New York State has established specific certification requirements for a number of professions, including but not limited to education (teaching and administration), medicine (doctors, nurses, physician assistants and medical technologists) and dentistry

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the University Faculty Senate condemns in the strongest possible terms both the process that created and the regulations that have been passed by the SUNY Board of Trustees Charter Schools Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate urges in the strongest terms that the Board of Trustees exercise its authority in Section 700.1 to "alter, amend, revise or repeal the provisions" of actions of its Charter Schools Committee to repeal the new regulations at its November Board of Trustees meeting.

BACKGROUND:

Resolution passed by Board of Trustees Charter Schools Committee:

<http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/webcastdocs/Resolution%20Approving%20Regulations.txt>

Regulations passed by Board of Trustees Charter Schools Committee:

[http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/webcastdocs/SUNY%20Charter%20School%20Regulations%20\(revised\).txt](http://www.suny.edu/about/leadership/board-of-trustees/meetings/webcastdocs/SUNY%20Charter%20School%20Regulations%20(revised).txt)