

**University Faculty Senate
Executive Committee
154th Plenary
SUNY Cobleskill
January 30, 2010**

RESOLUTION ON THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET, JANUARY 2010

Rationale:

It is obvious to all that New York State, indeed the nation, is suffering through a very difficult downturn in the economy. The collapse of major Wall Street firms in 2008 has hit New York and its state government especially hard. As a consequence, the state has had to reduce its funding for many worthwhile and valued services, including the State University of New York.

The 2010-11 Executive Budget submitted to the Legislature by Governor Paterson “recommends a \$148.8 million decrease in direct General Fund support for the operations of the SUNY State-operated Colleges and University-wide programs, which will be allocated by the Board of Trustees”, a similar cut of \$19.7 million for the Statutory Colleges at Cornell, and a cut of \$1.4 million for the College of Ceramics at Alfred University. The proposed cuts are being instituted on top of previous reductions in state allocations during the preceding two years totaling over \$400 million. The cumulative effect – a cut of over \$548 million – represents an unprecedented disinvestment in public higher education and in SUNY. Most simply stated, SUNY cannot continue to deliver educational excellence to increasing numbers of students with dramatically lower resources with which to work.

Resolution:

Whereas the Executive Budget calls for a decrease in state funding of \$170 million to the State University, and

Whereas the state has already cut the base budget allocation for the State University by more than \$400 million in the preceding two years, and

Whereas the University is currently serving more than 460,000 students, the largest number in its history and an increase of 8% over 2008-2009, and

Whereas the State University is an immediate and important aid to thousands of New Yorkers by providing the highest quality post-secondary education, which adds to the human capital available to businesses and service agencies, and

Whereas the State University is crucial to the revival of economic health for all New Yorkers,

Therefore, be it resolved

That the University Faculty Senate urges the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees, and the members of the New York State Legislature to work vigorously to achieve restoration of the funding base for the State University of New York that has been reduced in the proposed Executive Budget.

154-01-1
Passed without Dissent
January 30, 2010