

**University Faculty Senate
Executive Committee
164th Plenary
Upstate Medical/Syracuse
May 4, 2013**

**Resolution on the elimination of major types of political science research from support by the
National Science Foundation**

Whereas, on March 20, 2013 the United States Senate approved an amendment by Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) to the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 that limits the use of federal funds in the National Science Foundation's Political Science Program to topics related solely to national security and economic competitiveness; and

Whereas, the Congress subsequently passed this bill with the amendment intact and President Obama has signed the bill into law; and

Whereas, in 1950, when the United States Congress established the National Science Foundation, it wisely mandated that the merit of proposals for funding by the National Science Foundation would be evaluated by independent experts using only rigorous scientific criteria; and

Whereas, this principle of expert peer review safeguards the honesty, integrity, and quality of the research process and has served the nation well in advancing research in the physical and life sciences, the social and behavioral sciences, and the arts and humanities; and

Whereas, this process of expert peer review has become a model for the world-wide advancement of science in all fields; and

Whereas, the elimination of any area of research on the basis of political criteria threatens the integrity of the rigorous scientific review process that the National Science Foundation and other relevant federal agencies use to fund research that advances knowledge and informs debate on public issues; and

And, whereas, the restrictions placed upon areas of political science research embodied in the amendment to the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 could serve as a precedent to render all scientific research potentially vulnerable to political considerations and pressure;

Therefore, the University Faculty Senate of State University of New York urges the Congress to repeal the amendment, and thereby support and maintain a strictly scientific review process for research in political science through the National Science Foundation;

And further, the University Faculty Senate of the State University of New York urges its members and governance organizations to contact their members of Congress, advocating for the repeal of the amendment.

164-01-1

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Passed Unanimously