

University Faculty Senate
Graduate and Research Committee
170th Plenary
SUNY Plattsburgh
April 25, 2015

**Resolution on Fellowships to support graduate research for SUNY undergraduate students
who wish to attend graduate school**

Whereas, there are limited external funding sources for graduate student research in both STEM and non-STEM areas and

Whereas, many outstanding SUNY undergraduate students engage in research projects but go elsewhere for graduate studies, and

Whereas, findings from *The 2015 Study of How to Engage SUNY-STEM Graduates in New York State** indicates that the most important initiative to attract outstanding students to SUNY graduate programs is to offer those students assistantships.

Whereas, the faculty of each baccalaureate-granting campus value the research agendas of its undergraduate students, and

Whereas, student research is seen as an important link to economic development and jobs in New York State

Therefore be it resolved that the University Faculty Senate encourages the SUNY administration to explore the feasibility of offering a Chancellor's graduate fellowship at each baccalaureate-granting campus to an outstanding undergraduate SUNY student to begin their graduate work at a SUNY institution.

*The *2015 Study of How to Engage SUNY STEM Students in New York State* surveyed twenty-two graduate deans, of whom eighteen responded, in order to identify programs currently in place to attract talented students within New York State. Responses indicated that offering assistantships and internships, as well as readily available information about programs and stipends, were important and effective in the recruitment of New York State students into STEM graduate degree programs.

History:

1) Governor Cuomo recognizes the importance of SUNY student research and its impact on economic development (<https://www.suny.edu/suny-news/press-releases/september-2014/9-16-14-gov-nysuny-2020/governor-cuomo-awards-55-million-through-nysuny-2020-challenge-grant.html>)

2) Chancellor Zimpher emphasizes the importance of growth through our students and our research in the 2010 Strategic Plan.

3) Findings from the 2015 Study of How to engage SUNY STEM graduates in New York State

Hypothesis: programs initiated at the campus will help to retain talent within NYS

Methodology: phase 1: survey graduate deans to identify what programs are currently in place at campuses; Phase 2: survey alumni to find out if they are employed in NYS and if they are employed in their field of study.

Results: We received responses from 18 out of 22 graduate deans. The data from the Dean's survey recognized the importance of assistantships.

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Passed without Dissent