



**TO:** SUNY University Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Graduate Academic Programs & Research Committee  
**RE:** Resolution: SUNY Cross Campus Research Support  
**DATE:** April 5-6, 2024  
**LOCATION:** SUNY Colleges at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
**RESOLUTION #** 197-02-1  
**VOTE:** For: 30 / Against: 13

**RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS** the SUNY University Faculty Senate unanimously passed [194-03-1 Resolution on Restoration of Incentive Programs for Cross-Campus Research Collaboration](#) (April 2023), which called on the SUNY Chancellor to reinstate funding for cross-campus research collaboration, create an area where internship opportunities can be advertised, and create a high performance computing environment to help facilitate data intensive research, as well as for the Provost's Office to meet with SUNY UFS to discuss and define the direction of this work; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY [Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Development](#) works enterprise-wide to expand the reach of SUNY's world-changing research, scholarship and creative work by fostering university-wide collaborations, building partnerships and advancing an entrepreneurial culture that generates local, regional and statewide economic impact"; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* promoted cross campus research in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and its [program review report](#) indicates that the program was successful at paralleling the entire mission of SUNY to enhance society through education and research, as well as at supporting SUNY's efforts to function more like a unified system; and

**WHEREAS** the reviewers of the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program noted that the collaborative meetings bringing people together from across the system who are focused on the same research problems was seen as the most successful and least expensive output for the Networks; program participants were seen as working on projects having the potential to produce social benefits in New York State and beyond; and the program was seen as having the potential to drive innovation, economic opportunity, and/or job growth in New York State; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program reviewers recommended "to focus on developing a collaborative ecosystem based on smaller, more focused topics and bringing together seasoned faculty to mentor others and build a sense of community"; and

**WHEREAS** Governor Hochul in her [2023 State of the State address](#) outlined goals to ensure a world-class student experience and double sponsored research, startups, and patents across SUNY. In her [2024 State of the State address](#), Governor Hochul states that she "will launch an array of initiatives to continue building on the success of SUNY ... and ensure that *all* New York's students can reach their fullest potential"; and

**WHEREAS** Chancellor King, in his [2023 State Of The University address](#), called for a doubling of research activity, to “build partnerships throughout higher education,” to commit “across the System to attract and support excellent faculty and researchers,” and to “provide State-operated campuses with \$10 million in annual operating resources”; and

**WHEREAS** research experiences have shown to have a high impact on student success<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> and an even higher impact on the success of students from underrepresented groups<sup>2,5</sup>; hence, fostering research of faculty members in all disciplines and on all campuses is of paramount importance to student success; and

**WHEREAS** measuring research requires diverse yardsticks beyond extramural research funding volume, including yardsticks that feature number of publications or scholarly activities, and publication or scholarly activity’s impact in terms of number of citations, presentations, and downloads; and

**WHEREAS** several university rankings show that the SUNY System has multiple universities and colleges highly ranked [in the region, the country](#), and [the world](#), and all campuses can contribute to SUNY’s research standing; and

**WHEREAS** several other state university systems promote cross campus research groups in all disciplines<sup>6,7,8,9,10</sup> and/or yearly faculty research conferences to foster faculty professional development and celebrate their faculty’s excellence in research; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY System Administration is in the process of creating a SUNY-wide faculty research directory, searchable in particular by academic discipline, to be shared with all faculty members; and

**WHEREAS** SUNY support for cross-campus research collaboration in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, as well as in the sciences and all other fields, will send a strong message that SUNY values these fields at a time when they are under attack across the world;

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate calls on the Chancellor to provide funding for the organization of a SUNY-wide faculty research conference covering the local organization and logistical support typical for hosting such an event while balancing its costs and revenues, under the scholarly oversight of the Graduate Academic Programs and Research Committee. This conference will have the goal to foster the creation of SUNY-wide research groups within the discipline and to increase research productivity across the SUNY System by organizing:

- Workshops presented by federal, state, and local grant agencies representatives in several disciplines, including the humanities and the arts, to present funding opportunities;
- Presentations by grant specialists to teach grant writing skills;
- Presentations by SUNY-wide research group leaders of their plans for creating and leading cross-SUNY research groups;
- Panels on current topics;
- Junior faculty mentoring opportunities;
- Showcases and awards to celebrate exemplary research across the SUNY System; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate calls on the Chancellor to provide funding for the organization of SUNY-wide research groups, so as to sustain its leaders among SUNY faculty by

providing funding for at least 20 SUNY-wide research group leaders in all disciplines in the form of extra-service or assigned time support of \$4,000 per leader. These leaders will prepare plans to launch, manage, and evaluate the SUNY-wide research groups; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate requests a collaborative meeting between representatives of the Office of the Provost and members of the Graduate Programs and Research Committee and members of the Undergraduate Academic Programs and Policies Committee to refine these ideas and future direction of incentive programs for *SUNY Cross Campus Research Collaboration*.

#### REFERENCES:

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