



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Student Life Committee
RE: Resolution: Recommendation for Basic Needs Resource Communication
DATE: April 5-6, 2024
LOCATION: SUNY Colleges at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
RESOLUTION # 197-05-1
VOTE: For: 39 / Against: 0 (without dissent)

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. has committed the State University New York System to supporting student holistic wellbeing and specifically on Friday, October 20, 2023 Chancellor King stated:

"Our students often face tremendous basic needs challenges...And we're certainly committed to working with campuses to address those needs...I do want to give you one basic needs homework assignment...I want to encourage folks to visit [\[BEYOND THE FOOD PANTRY: Spreading the Word - Supporting Students' Basic Needs with a Syllabus Statement and Welcome Survey\]](#)...And you'll see there that she encourages folks to use syllabus statements around basic needs and security...So the syllabus statement is really just a simple statement about where you can get support on campus, and then the encouragement to reach out for help... I'd encourage you to think about including that, but also encouraging colleagues to include that kind of syllabus statement."

WHEREAS other institutions of higher education (e.g., [University of Hawai'i](#) and [The University of Iowa](#)) have modeled the utilization of basic needs syllabus statements in an effort to better serve students.

WHEREAS SUNY institutions including [SUNY Cortland](#), [SUNY New Paltz](#), and [SUNY Geneseo](#) have recommended the utilization of basic needs syllabus statements in an effort to better serve students.

WHEREAS the basic needs listed below impact all human beings' academic performance and overall well-being:

- Nutritious Food
- Stable Housing
- Healthcare
- Mental Health
- Financial Sustainability

WHEREAS each semester students get multiple syllabi for their courses that they are expected to read through. By including a basic needs statement in their syllabi, faculty can help spread the word about basic needs resources, regularly reinforce that support is available to students, and build a culture of caring.

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate recommends that all SUNY state-operated campuses consider adopting a policy regarding basic needs statements as a best practice; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate recommends, as part of such policy development, that SUNY campuses identify and implement broad and equitable communication strategies for their basic needs statements, for example, but not necessarily, as syllabus statements, on department websites, or integrated in LMS frames.