

Whereas: The COVID 19 pandemic has placed an unprecedented burden on physical and mental health resources in numerous communities, including our campus and surrounding areas.

Whereas: The conditions in and around the SUNY Cortland campus as a result of widespread transmission of SAR-CoV-2 and insufficient access to molecular testing resulted in a crisis situation in the fall semester of 2020.

Whereas: The fall semester crisis placed ever-expanding demands on the Student Health Services, Counseling Center, Residence Life and other campus offices. To protect the campus community, paid and volunteer staff were compelled to invest enormous effort above and beyond their usual responsibilities.

Resolved: We express our deepest gratitude to the essential staff and volunteers who put countless hours of labor into supporting the mental and physical health of our students and campus community. We encourage administration and work supervisors to officially recognize that labor via such mechanisms as letters in their personnel file, public acknowledgements, etc.

Resolved: That in the future no employees or volunteers be subjected to such stressful and often dangerous working conditions in order to maintain the basic safety and health of our community. To that end, these support staff must have a deciding role in planning to bring students back to campus in Spring 2021.

Resolved: We encourage the administration to work with the union to explore expanded workload compensation (when appropriate) and consider hazard pay or its equivalent for others deeply impacted by the special risks and stressors to which they were subjected.