

Student-Facing and Essential Worker Support Resolution

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

Whereas: The conditions in and around the SUNY Cortland campus resulted in a crisis situation in the 2020-2021 academic year due to widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and exacerbated by insufficient access to molecular testing on campus in the fall of 2020.

Whereas: The COVID crisis has placed ever-expanding demands on all campus offices, posed serious risks to student-facing and essential workers, and compelled paid and volunteer personnel to invest enormous time and effort above and beyond their usual responsibilities to protect the campus community.

Be it resolved that we the Faculty Senate:

... express our deepest gratitude to the numerous individuals who were compelled to provide countless hours of labor to support our students and campus community.

... encourage administration and work supervisors to officially recognize that labor, via such mechanisms as official positive commendation letters for their personnel files or portfolios, public acknowledgements, etc.

...encourage staff and professionals to seek out such recognition for themselves and their co-workers.

... assert that SUNY Cortland administration should make every effort necessary to ensure no employee or volunteer be subjected to such stressful or dangerous working conditions in the future without maximum protections in place to work safely, or remotely as applicable.

... firmly believe staff and professionals must be consulted and involved in planning and troubleshooting plans for managing both the current crisis and similar responses in the future.

... encourage the administration to work with the SUNY Cortland chapter of UUP and other bargaining units to explore compensation for expanded workload for those involved in our response to this crisis.

...request the administration report back to the Faculty Senate on what steps they have taken in response to this resolution by the end of the fall semester of 2021, at the final senate meeting in November.