

Dear Friends,

I write on behalf of Dennis Hefner, and the members of the SUNY Fredonia President's Cabinet.

We need your help as we try to encourage the political leaders in Albany to assist the SUNY System. Attached is a draft resolution, based on a resolution recently passed by the Fredona College Council. The resolution asks for support for a proposed 5 year tuition plan, which would allow for annual tuition increases within a reasonable cap. This would allow funds to cover increased costs. Such an authorization would mean that our campus would be able to maintain academic programs and their quality, while allowing us to continue to provide students with services and opportunities that support their personal and academic growth.

The resolution also asks for a commitment to "maintenance of effort" so that SUNY would not be forced to endure mid-year reductions in funding. The cuts that our campus experienced in the last three years, together with un-funded salary increases, cannot be continued in the future without serious harm being done to the Fredonia campus and academic programs.

I talked with Greg Gibbs, and he agreed that the resolution should be sent to you. Please let Joanne Bohn or me know if you support the attached resolution. A positive vote by the Board will result in the resolution being sent to a number of state legislators who are in influential positions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patty

Patricia A. Feraldi

Director of Alumni Affairs

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A FIVE-YEAR TUITION PLAN FOR SUNY

WHEREAS, the mission of SUNY Fredonia is to educate students at the baccalaureate and master's level, while at the same time providing economic, social, and cultural support to the region, and

WHEREAS, the State University of New York is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States, educating more than 467,000 students in more than 7,500 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses with more than 2.5 million alumni around the globe; and

WHEREAS, SUNY Fredonia has the potential to create unprecedented opportunities not just for current and future college students and their families, but for businesses and industry, and the workforce of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, New York has done an outstanding job of limiting reliance on tuition to support SUNY Fredonia's operations – holding tuition at \$4,070 per year – among the lowest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the means by which this tuition rate has been achieved are anything but fair and predictable, SUNY campuses having been allowed to raise tuition only 13 times over the last 48 years – the smallest of which was 7 percent and the highest of which was 43 percent; and

WHEREAS, a five-year tuition plan that is fair, equitable and responsible and keeps all tuition revenues at SUNY campuses without corresponding cuts will provide current and future students and their families the ability to adequately plan ahead and know any tuition increase will be used to enhance educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, it is unwaveringly clear that the past, present, and future of the State of New York is uniquely tied to its State University; and

WHEREAS, SUNY state-operated campuses have been the only New York public higher education sector to be subject to mid-year gubernatorial reductions without the concurrence of the legislature, and have frequently been the only part of state government to deal with the costs associated with collective bargaining agreements negotiated by the governor's Office of Employee Relations without state funding, thereby eroding the state's maintenance of effort; and

WHEREAS, SUNY campuses must have fiscal stability to be able to carry out this responsibility;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fredonia College Foundation hereby supports the State University's proposal for the enactment of a five-year rational tuition plan; as well as a commitment to the maintenance of effort throughout any given year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fredonia Alumni Association encourages the State Legislature to support this proposal and pass it into New York State law, and

AND, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Fredonia College Foundation shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, to members of the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.