

**RESOLUTION 32**

**SUPPORT OF FIVE-YEAR TUITION PLAN FOR SUNY**

**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 students have the potential to create unprecedented opportunities not just for current and future college students and their families, but for business 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 \$4,970 per year -- among the lowest in the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the means by 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**, during a time of a massive recession students need the financial security for their future and for our State Representatives to secure our education financially; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State has the responsibility to help SUNY students by putting their financial future ahead of politics and by keeping tuition stable and predictable for a better future for New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, a five-year tuition plan that is fair, predictable 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 the 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 the 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 SUNY Fredonia Student Association 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 SUNY Fredonia Student Association encourages the State Legislature to support this proposal and pass it into New York State Law.

Passed February, 24<sup>th</sup> 2011