

## Resolution in Support of Campus Activism

Whereas, many institutions of higher education have a long and grand tradition of being sites of passionate political discourse and civic engagement around issues of social justice;

Whereas, since the early 1900s, the concept of “academic freedom” has been used to provide some amount of protection for those challenging injustice on college campuses;

Whereas, United University Professionals (UUP) believes educators and institutions of higher education have the obligation to help nurture new generations of democratic voices, with the skills and confidence to stand against threats to liberty, democracy, and equality;

Whereas, recent shifts in the political climate at the national, state, and local levels have led to an increase in anti-science, anti-academic, and anti-public education rhetoric contributing to a rise in overt threats to racial, gender, sexuality, and economic justice;

Whereas, worker rights and our ability to organize are similarly under siege from these same forces;

Whereas, these threats have led many of our members, and their students, who are also members of traditionally marginalized groups, to feel unsafe on campus and in our residential communities;

Whereas, many of our members, and their students, are engaged in efforts to oppose these threats - on and off campus, in and outside the classroom – including calling for action by campus administration;

Whereas, many campus administrators have been slow to respond to these threats, or have failed to respond altogether – responding with empty rhetoric, issuing calls for unity based on false equivalencies, or most often prioritizing rhetoric over action – rather than immediately condemning these threats, calling out hostile actors, and formulating and implementing policies to address these threats;

Whereas, some campus administrators have even gone as far as to require that professional staff engage in surveillance and reporting of members and students who have attempted to resist these threats; and

Whereas, some members and students who have organized or engaged in activism to oppose these threats, or who have mentored students who have done so, have reported subsequent hostility from and, for some, retaliation by campus administrators;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Binghamton Chapter of UUP asks that the Delegates to the 2018 Spring Delegate Assembly of the United University Professions direct UUP President Fred

Kowal to send a letter to New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and to SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson requesting that they both do the following:

- Issue public statements, and encourage SUNY Presidents and administrators to issue similar statements, condemning all attacks on academic freedom, civic engagement, political dialogue; and that condemn and prohibit any efforts to limit or curtail peaceful protests and activism on SUNY campuses.
- Issue public statements, and encourage SUNY Presidents and administrators to issue similar statements, in support of, and in solidarity with, efforts across SUNY campuses to organize, educate, and speak out against any and all forms of discrimination and injustice; and that also support and encourage all faculty, staff, and students who attempt to utilize the knowledge gained through their education, and from their experience as scientists and researchers, to educate our campus and local communities, as well as the larger society, about threats to democracy and to the well-being of our communities posed by the increasingly pervasive anti-science and anti-diversity rhetoric.
- Issue public statements, and direct SUNY Presidents and administrators to issue similar statements, prohibiting the use of campus resources (both fiscal resources and campus personnel), or the creation or continuation any administrative policies, that attempt to limit, counter, or disrupt peaceful efforts to confront injustice on and off SUNY campuses; or that are intended to track or surveil, for the purpose of reprimand or reporting to law enforcement, any SUNY student, faculty, or staff member who participates in these efforts.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the President of the Binghamton Chapter of United University Professionals send a letter, including this resolution, to the Binghamton University Faculty Senate asking them to stand with UUP in solidarity around these issues by issuing a similar resolution to the SUNY Faculty Senate, also to be sent to Governor Cuomo and Chancellor Johnson.

***Passed by the Executive Committee of the Binghamton Chapter  
on March 14, 2018***