

TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Operations Committee
RE: SUNY System Administration guidance regarding changes in requirements for existing grants, scholarships, etc.
DATE: April 26th, 2025 (200th UFS Plenary)
LOCATION: SUNY Oneonta
NUMBER: 200-05-1
VOTE: For: 42 / Against: 2

RATIONALE

WHEREAS recent federal rulings and executive actions have raised significant uncertainty around the eligibility criteria and implementation of scholarships, grants, and programs¹, including the Supreme Court Affirmative Action Decision² and changes in federal funding policies³; and

WHEREAS these recent changes may jeopardize numerous scholarships, grants, and support programs designed to assist populations in need offered at many SUNY campuses; and

WHEREAS individual SUNY campuses may face legal and administrative challenges in adapting current programs to align with evolving federal standards without clear guidance and support; and

WHEREAS many SUNY campuses have limited access to specialized legal and financial expertise necessary to navigate these complex and changing federal compliance issues; and

WHEREAS maintaining robust support for SUNY's mission to provide universal access to educational opportunities is an ethical obligation and legal requirement; and

WHEREAS collective guidance, clarity, and collaboration across SUNY campuses could mitigate disruption to affected students and staff, ensure consistent compliance, and share effective practices; and

WHEREAS terminology can be the impetus for changes in federal funding, SUNY-wide consensus may be helpful to developing a shared understanding and agreement on our nomenclature, which holds the potential to enhance our advocacy efforts and articulate our needs more effectively;

RESOLUTION

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY University Faculty Senate (SUNY UFS) requests that SUNY System Administration provide clear and consistent guidance addressing recent federal changes impacting funding, scholarships, and support programs that are critical for SUNY's mission; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY UFS requests that SUNY System Administration facilitate inter-campus collaboration to ensure campuses can share practical strategies and best

practices for adapting existing scholarships and programs to meet current federal requirements;
and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY UFS requests that SUNY System Administration advocate and seek legal clarity at state and federal levels, where appropriate, to protect existing at-risk programs and scholarships to the fullest extent possible under the law; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that SUNY UFS urges campus governance leaders to advocate transparent communication of changes and adaptations by the administration to affected students and stakeholders, thereby minimizing uncertainty and disruption.

BACKGROUND

¹SUNY REPORT: “[Long-Term Enrollment and Financial Sustainability](#)”, pp. 13. (January 2024)

²SCOTUS DECISION: [Students for Fair Admissions \("SFFA"\) v. President and Fellows of Harvard and Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina \("UNC"\)](#). (Released June 29, 2023)

³EXECUTIVE ORDER: [Improving Education Outcomes by Empowering Parents, States, and Communities](#). (Released March 20, 2025)