

Resolution against Automatic, Annual Tuition Increases at SUNY

Whereas State University of New York students and their families already pay high tuition fees to attend college; and

Whereas according to the College Board, tuition and fees at New York's public colleges is among the highest in the nation, far costlier than the national average and more expensive than tuition at public universities in comparable states like California, Florida, and Texas; and

Whereas there is no guarantee that the smaller, but annual tuition hike programs will actually end future big increases like SUNY's recent \$950 hike; and

Whereas other states with similar "indexing" of tuition have seen increases that far exceed the amounts called for by their index during years with budget deficits; and

Whereas New York State has reduced support for SUNY over the past years and now ranks 39 out of 50 states in terms of state tax dollars allotted to higher education; and

Whereas any tuition hikes will even further shift the burden to fund SUNY away from the state and onto students and their families; and

Whereas automatic annual tuition plans traditionally do not increase financial aid, which is being outpaced by the rising cost of higher education and, thus, the poorest New Yorkers are being priced out of a college education; and

Whereas tuition hikes should be a last resort, not a first option, and these proposals don't look at any other ways to increase revenue for SUNY campuses except to recommend tuition increases.

Therefore, be it resolved that we oppose automatic annual tuition hikes at the State University of New York; and

Be it further resolved that we urge Governor Pataki and the New York State Legislature to protect their student and parent constituents by passing a state budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year that holds the line on tuition, fully funds and expands TAP, and increases funding for SUNY beyond current levels.

Name of Group: _____

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