Faculty Unanimous in Support of Affordable Education

ALBANY, NY – Faculty from New York State’s 30 community colleges are united in support of a plan to increase state aid to community colleges.

The “Rational State Aid and Tuition Plan,” drafted by SUNY and the New York Community College Association of Presidents, recommends five years of annual increases in state aid of $205 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student beginning in 2012. This will bring the state closer to meeting its funding obligation of 40 percent.

The plan was endorsed by the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and then approved by each of the state’s 30 community colleges.

“Faculty from all over the State are calling on the legislature and the governor to make a commitment to our community colleges, our students, and the regions we serve,” said Tina Good, president of the Faculty Council.

On Monday, the Assembly and Senate submitted amendments to the governor’s Executive Budget proposing additional funding for community colleges, but not enough. The Assembly committed $205 per FTE, but for only one year. The Senate proposed $100 per FTE this year, with incremental increases each year for a maximum of $200 per FTE for 2015-16. In response, the Faculty Council is sending letters to each of the legislators emphasizing the need for a stronger commitment.

“Year-to-year commitments do not allow our colleges to look toward the future,” said Good, adding, “We need a five-year plan of $205 FTE increases if community colleges
are going to continue to meet the needs of high school graduates and adults seeking to enhance their academic skills and employment opportunities.”

New York’s community colleges were created on a model of one-third funding each from the State, county or local sponsors, and students. The State later increased its share to up to 40 percent, but has only met that obligation once, in 1975. This shifts the financial burden onto the students, who paid on average 44.9 percent this year.

About the Faculty Council of Community Colleges:
The Faculty Council of Community Colleges is the statewide faculty governance group for all of SUNY’s community colleges.

###