WHEREAS, the Community Colleges of New York have seen record enrollments, with the student population increasing nearly 10% over the 2008-2009 academic year and almost 40% over the past decade, and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges recognizes the difficult fiscal environment currently facing New York State, but also understands the unique position of SUNY’s thirty community colleges to address the needs of high school graduates and adults looking to enhance their academic skills and employment opportunities, the needs of the region’s business community for qualified employees, and the need to create the workforce required to catalyze new industry and economic prosperity, and

WHEREAS, elected officials at the local, state and national level have recognized the vital role that Community Colleges can play in the Nation’s economic recovery, and

WHEREAS, the Community Colleges recently sustained a mid-year budget cut of $130 per FTE under the New York State Deficit Reduction Plan adopted in December 2009, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Budget for FY2010-11 proposes an additional cut of $285 per FTE in base aid, which, when taken together with the mid-year cuts, represents a total reduction of $415 per FTE in funding, and

WHEREAS, such cuts, if adopted, will dramatically undermine the efforts of all thirty community colleges in the SUNY system to adequately meet the growing needs of their communities for a quality, affordable, and accessible higher education, and could result in limitations on student enrollment, elimination of programs, as well as staff layoffs, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges hereby affirms its opposition to additional cuts to state base aid for community colleges and supports the position adopted by the New York Community College Association of Presidents and the Association of New York Community College Trustees against such cuts, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges strongly urges the Governor and the New York State Legislature to maintain base aid funding at $2,545 per FTE at a minimum.