Faculty Council of Community Colleges

Resolution on the Establishment of a
Work Group on Shared Governance within SUNY

FCCC Resolution #G1-2009-10
March 27, 2010

WHEREAS, SUNY has long recognized the importance of shared governance, and

WHEREAS, the Presidents of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and the University Faculty Senate have requested the establishment of a Work Group on Shared Governance within SUNY with the attached charge and suggested membership (see below),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges endorses the attached charge and suggested membership for the proposed SUNY Work Group on Shared Governance, and be it further

Resolved, that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges requests the establishment of the SUNY Work Group on Shared Governance.

Approved unanimously
March 27, 2010
Charge for Work Group on Shared Governance within SUNY

Charge:
The work group will examine the current patterns and procedures for shared governance at SUNY System Administration, conduct research for recommending foundational documents and policies and processes to strengthen effective shared governance, and will make recommendations regarding the most appropriate policies and procedures for effective shared governance at SUNY System Administration. Additionally, this Work Group will recommend tactical strategies for encouraging shared governance at the campus level as well.

Rationale:
Strong shared governance within higher education is recognized as necessary for maintaining vital institutions within a democracy. As the Middle State’s Commission on Higher Education explains in its standard on “Leadership and Governance,” it “expects a climate of shared collegial governance in which all constituencies (such as faculty, administration, staff, students and governing board members, as determined by each institution) involved in carrying out the institution’s mission and goals participate in the governance function in a manner appropriate to that institution. Institutions should seek to create a governance environment in which issues concerning mission, vision, program planning, resource allocation and others, as appropriate, can be discussed openly by those who are responsible for each activity. Within any system of shared governance, each major constituency must carry out its separate but complementary roles and responsibilities. Each must contribute to an appropriate degree so that decision-makers and goal-setters consider information from all relevant constituencies. While reflecting institutional mission, perspective, and culture, collegial governance structures should acknowledge also the need for timely decision-making.” It is important, therefore, that SUNY System Administration assist campuses in meeting this standard by creating a culture of shared governance and serving as a model of best practices in shared governance processes.

Suggested Membership for Work Group on Shared Governance:
The Chancellor (or designee)
The Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (or designee)
The Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officers (or designee)
The President of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges
The President of the Student Assembly
The President of the University Faculty Senate
The Convener of Campus Governance Leaders from the UFS
A Campus Governance Leader from the Community Colleges

Approved unanimously
March 27, 2010