Faculty Council of Community Colleges

Resolution Supporting “A Rational State Aid and Tuition Plan”
for the Community Colleges
FCCC Resolution #G1-2011-12

Passed: December 20, 2011

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 seeking 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, the State’s base aid rate per FTE at the start of the 2009 – 2010 was $2675 and now currently stands at $2122, representing a 21% decrease in the State’s support of the Community Colleges, and

WHEREAS, this decrease places the State’s contribution below what it was 1999 – 2000 so that it now represents only 26.5% of operating costs, far short of the State’s 40% statutory obligation, and

WHEREAS, most County sponsors have been unable to increase their contribution to operating costs, and

WHEREAS, this has put the burden of funding the community colleges on the students in the form of substantial increases in tuition, and

WHEREAS, the community colleges have responded to budgetary pressures by taking such actions as decreasing full-time faculty, curtailing student services, cutting programs, and deferring needed maintenance of physical plants, all of which have direct negative impact on the students of the community colleges, and

WHEREAS, appropriate funding of the community colleges represents an investment in the economic recovery and continued economic health of the state and a commitment to providing affordable and accessible higher education to New York’s citizens, and

WHEREAS, SUNY and the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) have proposed a “Rational State Aid and Tuition Plan” for the community colleges that would bring the State closer to its statutory funding obligation, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges endorses the “Rational State Aid and Tuition Plan” and, specifically, its recommendations for: 1) annual increases of $205 per FTE in State aid over each of the five years beginning in 2012 – 2013 (which will increase the State’s share of operating costs to 33.3% by 2016 – 2017); 2) increasing rental reimbursements to 50% of rental costs; 3) continuing funding of high needs programs; and 4) continuing funding of low-enrolled community colleges.