



**TO:** SUNY University Faculty Senate  
**FROM:** Graduate Programs & Research Committee  
**RE:** Resolution: Restoration of Incentive Programs for Cross-Campus Research Collaboration  
**DATE:** Spring Plenary, April 22, 2023  
**LOCATION:** Upstate Medical University, Syracuse NY

**Resolution #:** 194-03-1  
**Vote:** For: 44 / Against: 0

**RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program was designed to facilitate system-wide collaboration by bringing together faculty and researchers and harnessing institutional expertise from across SUNY's campuses to solve some of the world's most pressing problems; as such, this program exemplifies previous SUNY attempts at creating *incentive programs for Cross-Campus Research Collaboration*; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program funded the SUNY 4E (Energy, Environment, Economics, Education), Brain, Health, and Materials & Advanced Manufacturing in academic year 2013-14 for \$4,000,000 and added the Arts & Humanities and the Teaching, Learning & Assessment networks in academic year 2014-15 for \$4,000,000; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* [program review report](#)<sup>1</sup> indicates that the program was successful at paralleling the entire mission of SUNY to enhance society through education and research, as well as at supporting SUNY's efforts to function more like a unified system; and

**WHEREAS** the reviewers of the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program noted that the collaborative meetings bringing people together from across the system who are focused on the same research problems was seen as the most successful and least expensive output for the Networks; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program participants were seen as working on projects having the potential to produce social benefits in New York State and beyond; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program was seen as having the potential to drive innovation, economic opportunity, and/or job growth in New York State; and

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<sup>1</sup> SUNY Networks of Excellence review report

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program successfully provided much needed *Experiential Learning opportunities* for graduate students cross campuses; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program reviewers recommended “to focus on developing a collaboration ecosystem based on smaller, more focused topics and bringing together seasoned faculty to mentor others and build a sense of community”; and

**WHEREAS** the *SUNY Networks of Excellence* program has been on hold since 2015 due to a lack of funding; and

**WHEREAS** the majority of departments at SUNY lack access to a *High Performance Computing environment* that would enable them to process large volumes of data at high speed to leverage the Big data revolution taking place in many academic disciplines both for education and research; and

**WHEREAS** Governor Hochul in her 2023 State of the State address and State Fiscal Year 2024 (SFY24) Executive Budget proposal provided \$200 million to fund SUNY digital transformation for state-of-the-art IT infrastructure across the SUNY system; and

**WHEREAS** Governor Hochul in her 2023 State of the State address and SFY24 Executive Budget proposal outlined goals to ensure a world-class student experience and doubling sponsored research, startups, and patents across SUNY; and

**WHEREAS** support for cross-campus research collaboration in the arts, humanities, and social sciences, as well as in the sciences and all other fields, will send a strong message that SUNY values these fields at a time when they are under attack across the world;

**RESOLUTION:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate requests that the Chancellor reinstate funding for incentive programs for *SUNY Cross Campus Research Collaboration*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate requests that the Chancellor create a *SUNY-wide Experiential Learning and Research Projects portal* or an alternate resource where faculty and businesses could post such opportunities and undergraduate and graduate students could apply for them; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate requests that the Chancellor create a *SUNY-wide High Performance Computing environment* for graduate education and research that would greatly enhance education and research in an increasingly data intensive world and facilitate cross-SUNY research collaborations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the University Faculty Senate requests a collaborative meeting between representatives of the Office of the Provost and members of the Graduate Programs and Research Committee and members of the Undergraduate APP during Fall 2023 to define

the future direction of incentive programs for *SUNY Cross Campus Research Collaboration*.