

Whereas: The COVID 19 pandemic has placed an unprecedented burden on physical and mental health resources in numerous communities, including our campus and surrounding areas.

Whereas: The conditions in and around the SUNY Cortland campus as a result of widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and insufficient access to molecular testing resulted in a crisis situation in the fall semester of 2020.

Whereas: The fall semester crisis placed ever-expanding demands on the Student Health Services, Counseling Center, Residence Life and other campus offices. To protect the campus community, paid and volunteer personnel were compelled to invest enormous effort above and beyond their usual responsibilities.

Be it resolved that we the Faculty Senate:

... express our deepest gratitude to the numerous individuals who were compelled to provide countless hours of labor to support the mental and physical health of our students and campus community.

... encourage administration and work supervisors to officially recognize that labor, via such mechanisms as official positive commendation letters for their personnel files or portfolios, public acknowledgements, etc.

... assert that SUNY Cortland administration should make every effort necessary to ensure no employee or volunteer be subjected to such stressful or dangerous working conditions in the future without maximum protections in place to work safely, or remotely as applicable.

... firmly believe that academic faculty, professional faculty and staff must have an ongoing and deciding role in planning and troubleshooting plans for managing both the current crisis and similar responses in the future.

... encourage the administration to work with the SUNY Cortland chapter of UUP and other bargaining units to explore compensation for expanded workload for those involved in our response to this ongoing crisis.

...request the administration report back to the Faculty Senate on what steps they have taken in response to this resolution.