

Undergraduate Student Government
Stony Brook University
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Executive Vice President

SENATE

2011 SENATE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING STATE BUDGET CUTS TO STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the State of New York to *adequately* fund its institutions of higher education;

Whereas, it is the duty of New York to State to ensure tuition assistance programs are fully funded to help any person wishing to pursue an education, a right that should be guaranteed to all;

Whereas, New York State appropriated \$46.2 million of tax payer money in Bundy Aid to private colleges, such as Cornell and Columbia, in 2007-2008, and has cut Stony Brook University, a flagship of the State University of New York (SUNY), by \$62 million over the last three years, with Governor Cuomo planning to cut an additional \$12 million in academic support, creating a \$30 million budget gap;

Whereas, SUNY institutions across the State, and Stony Brook University especially, serving a total of 467,845 enrollees, have already made sacrifices by discontinuing departments, reducing classes, eliminating faculty, and closing satellite campuses; and

Whereas, Stony Brook University students have made sacrifices by working longer hours and yet still an overwhelming majority will graduate college with debt, a situation compounded by the United States Congress contemplating cutting Pell Grants by \$845 and the implicit threat of tuition increases, which would push tuition costs above the maximum Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award.

Resolved, by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government –

- (1) That the State of New York end its propaganda campaign stating that there are “no alternatives,” immediately employing the very real alternatives at its disposal to restore support to SUNY and the Tuition Assistant Program;
- (2) That the State of New York act to increase the Tuition Assistant Program before proposing increased tuition, a de facto form of taxes on its youth and its future leaders;
- (3) That the State of New York take immediate action to restore the money it stole from the students in its previously unprecedented cuts to SUNY ; and

(4) That the State of New York reprioritize higher education, choosing to invest in its youth's education, their future, and New York's future by ceasing to slash the budgets of Stony Brook University and other SUNY institutions and by ensuring adequate functioning of such by providing adequate funds for public education.

Respectfully submitted to and passed by the Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government Senate on this 24th day of March, 2011.

Executive Vice President

Date