

The State University of New York **Student Assembly** **Winter Report**

President Austin Ostro

University Faculty Senate Winter Plenary

University at Albany

January 18th, 2020

Student Assembly Executive Committee:

Expanding & Evolving

Adapting to the needs of 2020's college students by creating positions that enhance our advocacy initiatives and provide more students opportunities for leadership



Advocacy Priorities

A photograph of three young professionals in business attire smiling outdoors. On the left is a woman with braids and sunglasses wearing a dark green sleeveless top. In the center is a man with a beard in a blue suit and tie, holding a green cup. On the right is a man in a light blue shirt and tie, holding a blue smartphone. The background shows a modern building and a tree. A blue and yellow vertical bar is on the right edge.

Ending the Rise of Tuition and Fees

The Student Assembly urges the state to appropriate sufficient funding to the state to offset the need for any increases in tuition or fees.



Funding for Capital Projects

Capital neglect can lead to unsafe conditions for students, faculty, and staff, and to buildings being taken off line from use. Additional support for capital would also allow campuses to make serious investments in the sustainability of their infrastructure.

The Student Assembly supports a \$1.2 billion investment in SUNY infrastructure, to support critical maintenance needs on existing buildings, and the construction of new facilities.

A photograph of three young adults, two men and one woman, dressed in professional business attire (suits and ties). They are standing in a hallway with a white brick wall and a glass door with an 'EXIT' sign in the background. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark grey box containing white text.

Expanding Opportunity Programs

The Student Assembly urges the state to protect the Educational Opportunity Program, which helps SUNY students from low-income families afford college. Additional funding for EOP would allow campuses to open more spots in the program to eligible students, expand the Foster Youth College Success Initiative, and offer increased student support services.



State Support for Community Colleges

We urge the state to institute a funding floor, equal to the 2019-2020 appropriation to each community college, and enshrine that funding floor in state law. This would allow community colleges a greater degree of financial predictability, and reduce the need for increases in tuition and fees on students.

Christian
Rodriguez

Elisabeth

Higher Education Committee Hearings

Thank you to Dylan Rice, Bryce Mack, Yousouf Amolegbe, Gaelle Jean-Baptiste, Georgia Hulbert, Brad Hershenson, Taijah Pink, Carson Rowe, Peter Huber, and Kevin Rogers for your testimony.



Student Life Committee



- College affordability and financial aid
- Student mental health and wellness
- Combating food insecurity

*Thank you Representative Hoyte and
Chief of Staff Rackmyer for speaking at the meeting.*



Fall Conference

Local Advocacy Week



- AM Montesano
- AM Magnarelli
- AM Tague
- AM Buttenschon
- AM Fahy
- AM Woerner
- AM Benedetto
- AM Doug Smith
- AM Byrnes
- AM Englebright
- AM Hunter
- AM McMahan
- AM McDonald
- Senator Kaplan

Meetings with Legislators

Washington DC Trip

Meetings with NYS Legislators

- AM Mark Walczyk
- AM Michael Cusick
- AM Harvey Epstein
- AM Deborah Glick
- AM Steve Englebright
- AM Jamie Romeo
- AM John McDonald
- AM Jake Ashby
- Senator Andrew Gounardes
- Senator Jim Gaughran
- Senator Toby Stavisky
- Senator Jose Serrano
- Senator Joe Robach
- Senator Robert Jackson
- Senator Rachel May
- Senator Neil Breslin

Response to Recent Events at Syracuse University



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SUNY Student Assembly responds to the racist and hateful acts at Syracuse University.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, November 19th, 2019
Contact: Michael Stefanko (michael.stefanko@sunysa.org) or (651) 428-2906

"The Student Assembly strongly condemns the egregious acts of racism and white supremacy at Syracuse University. The multiple incidents within the last month have caused extreme hardship for students in Syracuse, and we extend our sympathies and support to every person that has been affected by these acts of hate.

Racism, white supremacy, and hate must be rooted out and combatted at every turn. SUNY students pride themselves on the diversity of the student body and faculty. These recent acts run contrary to the values that so many SUNY students have: acceptance, diversity, kindness, and empathy.

We support the immediate allocation of any and all resources to our students in Syracuse and across the system. We must ensure that white supremacy and hate do not continue to invade our campuses. We call on leadership in Syracuse, the State, and the Federal Government to investigate these crimes and bring justice to the students who have been impacted by hate."

About the SUNY Student Assembly

The Student Assembly of the State University of New York (SUNY SA) is the recognized student government organization representing the nearly 1.4 million students of the State University of New York. Comprised of student leaders elected by their peers from across SUNY's 64 campuses, SUNY SA is committed to empowering students throughout the state, and ensuring the representation of its members on the state and national level, as well as throughout the SUNY system.

Campus visits



President's Summit





SUNYSA

Questions?

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Student Assembly