



TO: SUNY University Faculty Senate
FROM: Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Committee
RE: Resolution in Appreciation of the Late Dr. Teresa Miller's Leadership in Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity, Shared Governance, and Being a Friend of the Senate
DATE:
LOCATION: Virtual

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS Professor Teresa A. Miller was a tireless advocate of social justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity throughout her career first as a Professor of Law at the University at Buffalo, focusing on the rights of prisoners, then as the inaugural Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence at the University at Buffalo; and later in the SUNY System as Chief of Staff for Chancellor Johnson, then Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and SUNY Chief Diversity Officer ¹; and

WHEREAS as a Chief of Staff for Chancellor Johnson, Professor Miller worked to increase representation of historically underrepresented faculty at all of our campuses; she "understood that cohorts and community helped recruitment and retention of faculty", and thus as the chief architect of PRODiG, called for cluster hires as an important element of the program; later, as the SUNY Chief Diversity Officer, she continued to develop the PRODiG program²; and

WHEREAS Professor Miller mentored faculty and Chief Diversity Officers across campuses, always willing to listen and guide, and helping campuses deal with challenges and weather crises; to ensure that those in need had access to her, she instituted SUNY CDO Office Hours; she helped build communities and collaboration by organizing bi-weekly CDO meetings and a SUNY Diversity Conference that was open to all faculty and staff interested in equity, inclusion, and diversity; and

WHEREAS Professor Miller actively collaborated with faculty governance (UFS as well as FCCC) as partner for task forces and for on-the-ground help with campus incidents; she responded quickly to UFS queries, always willing and open to discuss ODEI initiatives and PRODiG progress updates; she would meet with the chair of EID committee to discuss committee concerns and initiatives;

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate of the State University of New York expresses its deepest appreciation for Dr. Teresa Miller's extraordinary commitment and leadership in Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity and for being an ally and partner for the University Faculty Senate's goals and work around equity, social justice, inclusion, and diversity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate, in recognition of her leadership and for being a friend and partner of the University Faculty Senate, posthumously bestows the Friend of the Senate award, our highest honor to a non-member of the University Faculty Senate upon Dr. Teresa A Miller, SUNY Chief Diversity Officer.

¹ [Teresa A. "Teri" Miller, 59, promoted diversity as UB provost, SUNY executive", Buffalo News, 1 September 2021](#)

² [Kay, Gwen. "An Appreciation: Teresa Miller", sunyufs.us, 7 October 2021](#)