

RESOLUTION OF SUNY POTSDAM AND SUNY CANTON COLLEGE COUNCILS

At a special joint meeting thereof held

On the 26th day of March, 2012

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the following resolution was duly adopted, to wit:

WHEREAS, SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton have a long and proud history and tradition of sharing services; and

WHEREAS, we also partner with the two private universities in our twelve mile radius – Clarkson and St. Lawrence, as part of the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley which was chartered by the Board of Regents in 1970; and

WHEREAS, among other services, the Associated Colleges offer: cross- registration; interlibrary loans; contracts to save money for member campuses; common courses and transportation for students to provide opportunities beyond cross-registration; and

WHEREAS, these examples are over and above a number of past and current services shared between SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam; and

WHEREAS, the College Councils of SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton recognize the difficult financial situation facing New York State and SUNY; and

WHEREAS, both Councils recognize and support the need to continue to share services among campuses and to redirect the money saved through shared services and “SUNY Systemness” into our primary focus of academic instruction and student services; and

WHEREAS, at the direction of SUNY Central, both SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton began a joint search to hire and share Chief Financial Officer last August; and

WHEREAS, the joint search committee, comprised of equal representatives from each campus reported to their respective Presidents on or about March 2nd that they did not feel one single person could successfully fulfill all the duties and responsibilities of both jobs; and

WHEREAS, the joint search committee determined that in light of the above they would not make a recommendation on hiring a joint Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, both Councils believe that the joint search was initiated by SUNY Central solely on the basis of the already announced retirement of the Vice President for Business Affairs at SUNY Potsdam, where a search was underway to find a replacement, and the anticipated retirement of the Vice President for Administrative Services at SUNY Canton sometime in 2013; and

WHEREAS, during the joint campus meetings regarding shared services as well as during the joint CFO search committee it became apparent that the two positions have vastly different functions on each campus such as overseeing athletics on one and responsibility for financial aid on the other; and

WHEREAS, each Vice President functions alone, without an Associate or Assistant under them to take over these other functions if the Vice Presidencies were to be combined/shared by the two campuses; and

WHEREAS, both College Councils believe that upon further review, these Vice President positions are much more complicated than simply combining a Chief Financial Officer as has been done on other campuses where their duties and scope of authority were much more limited; and

WHEREAS, multiple areas for additional shared services between the two campuses and other SUNY units are making steady progress and will be fully reported upon to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees in July as required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that both College Councils, meeting in an extraordinary joint session, do hereby request that each campus be permitted to proceed to fill their respective Vice Presidents for Business Affairs/Administrative Services while at the same time continuing jointly working on other avenues for combining administrative functions which will be outlined in the July report to the Board of Trustees; and be it further

RESOLVED that the sentiments and desires of the SUNY Potsdam and SUNY Canton College Councils, as expressed in this resolution, be transmitted to Chancellor Zimpher and to the SUNY Board of Trustees.

March 26,2012
