

In Defense of Our Values, Democracy and Higher Education

Whereas Stony Brook University is more than a place – it is a community of diverse people sharing a common mission and values, which guide our day-to-day interactions and defined what it means to be a member of our campus community; and

Whereas our core values¹ are:

- **Community:** We support and empower each member of our Stony Brook community, acknowledging that our students, faculty, and staff all have distinct needs and make unique contributions.
- **Excellence:** We maintain the highest standards, acting with integrity in all we do to build upon our legacy as one of the nation's great public research universities.
- **Equity:** We ensure that each member of our community feels a sense of belonging, is afforded equal opportunity, and is treated with dignity and respect.
- **Collaboration:** We take interdisciplinary approaches to complex challenges and transcend our campus borders to deepen our powerful and lasting impact.
- **Innovation:** We foster a dynamic, engaging, and motivating environment that encourages ambitious discovery, creativity, and bold, unconventional thinking to guide and enhance our impact on the world.

and

Whereas our values are the embodiment of our democratic ideals in practice, and the foundation upon which Higher Education's principles of academic integrity, freedom and exploration guide our research and our obligations to our students, our community, our state and the greater world are written; and

Whereas as a flagship of the State University of New York and Long Island's only public research university, federal funding of our campus communities' focus of instruction, research and service has been integral to the health and well being of the region, and had a direct economic impact on Long Island, NYS and the United States through its patents, inventions and medical discoveries since its founding in 1957; and

Whereas our campus community members' daily work have had real life impact on the lives of their fellow citizens, and have directly revolutionized patient care, deepened scientific understanding, and expanded engineering insight, benefiting the region's economy; and

¹ Source; [Stony Brook University Strategic Plan](#).

Whereas governmental bodies, political bad actors, and members of the general public have threatened and now question the legitimacy of the academy, and societal value of the American Higher Education system, the integrity of scientific exploration, the sharing of knowledge, the value of exposure to diverse views and perspectives, the need for civil debate and discourse in a democracy; and

Whereas the quiet and diligent efforts of New York State's Leadership, including the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the SUNY Chancellor's Office, the SUNY UFA, the NY delegation, and the Stony Brook Administration to defend higher education, academic freedom, our campus community, and our values to continue to hold the line of democracy within our State and Country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Stony Brook University Senate stands in solidarity with the efforts to protect and defend the values of free thought, free speech, free expression, pursuit of knowledge, sharing of knowledge, freedom of assembly and the right to civil and respectful debate intrinsic within Higher Education, Academic Freedom, and a Democratic Society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Stony Brook University Senate in collaboration with the Stony Brook Administration commits the 2025-2026 Academic Year to holding discourse around our values, democracy and the means by which we may continue protect them as a campus community, including discussion of proactive plans for defending our students, staff, faculty, and institution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the SUNY Leadership to join with other institutions of higher education to explore the formation of the mutual academic defense compacts and fund as described in SUNY University Faculty Senate Resolution 200-09-1, "[Defending, Protecting, and Advancing Foundational Principles and Functions of New York State and United States Higher Education](#)"; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we charge the Stony Brook University Senate President to forward this resolution upon passage to SUNY Leadership, and to SUNY University Faculty Senate President Bruce Simons, requesting he discuss it and any related resolutions from UFS and other SUNY campus governance bodies with Chancellor King at the earliest possible date.