



United University Professions

November 13, 2013

Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher
State University of New York
State University Plaza, 353 Broadway
Albany, New York 12246

Dear Chancellor Zimpher:

United University Professions voices its strong support for the following resolutions passed by the University Faculty Senate on October 25, 2013:

1. Resolution on the Board of Trustees Recommendation on the Use of Admissions Criteria for Teacher Education Programs
2. Resolution on Failure of Consultation and Shared Governance Regarding SUNY Educator Preparation Programs and the *New NY* Education Reform Commission

UUP calls upon you and the SUNY Board of Trustees to reverse the September 18, 2013 BOT resolution to impose a 3.0 GPA admissions requirement and to follow appropriate consultation procedures that ensure faculty responsibility for the design and delivery of the curriculum.

Imposing a 3.0 GPA admissions requirement without addressing the concerns voiced by educators across our campuses will have negative effects on SUNY students and programs. There is no evidence that GPA admissions requirements are singularly significant in predicting college success or excellence in teaching. A range of factors are at play in the development of our best future teachers and many undergraduates have not developed their full abilities at the point of potential admission to our programs. We are gravely concerned that a rigid admissions criterion developed without consideration of the context-specific factors that faculty are able to assess at the program level will limit accessibility to gifted potential teachers. This could seriously limit access to our programs for students from underrepresented groups and it could eliminate candidates who have high levels of talent in the broad spectrum of qualities that lead to excellence in teaching.

The SUNY faculty has appropriately applied GPA standards and other criteria for student completion at the program and campus levels. Imposing a system-wide GPA admission criterion denies the importance of discipline and area-specific assessments of the full range of factors that ensure college success and excellence in teaching.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Kowal', written in a cursive style.

Frederick E. Kowal, Ph.D.,
President

FEK:jfd

cc: SUNY Board of Trustees
Board of Regents