

## Resolution Endorsing a Tuition Freeze for AY 2018-19

Passed on November 17, 2017

Plenary

WHEREAS, the Doctoral Students' Council (DSC) comprises representatives from doctoral and master's programs at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY); and

Executive Committee

Steering Committee

WHEREAS, the DSC advocates for over 3,500 students at the Graduate Center in their roles as students, teachers, workers, family members, New Yorkers, activists, and academics; and

Constitution and Bylaws

Grants

WHEREAS, the DSC shares CUNY's historic mission of providing access to higher education to low-income communities and communities of color in New York City and across the nation; and

Health & Wellness

Outreach

WHEREAS, on Friday, October 21, 2016, the DSC adopted the [Resolution on a Tuition Freeze for 2017-18](#), which requested the CUNY Administration and Board of Trustees freeze tuition at the 2016-2017 rates for the 2017-2018 Academic Year (AY) and called on the New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to sign an enhanced Maintenance Of Effort ([MOE bill](#)), which would provide CUNY the necessary state funding each fiscal year; and

Student Services

USS Advisory Committee

Advocate Advisory Board

OpenCUNY Board

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2017, the NYS Legislature adopted an enhanced MOE bill, which Governor Cuomo has yet to sign, subsequently, on June 26, 2017, the CUNY Board of Trustees adopted [Calendar Item 4.B.](#), which increased tuition for students attending senior colleges, graduate and professional schools during the 2017-2018 AY; and

Governance Task Force

WHEREAS, during 2017-2018 AY tuition ranges from \$6,530-\$17,400 per year for students attending a CUNY senior college, \$4,530-\$7,685 per semester for students who are New York State residents and enrolled in a CUNY graduate or professional program and \$805-\$1,120 per credit for out-of-state students enrolled in a CUNY graduate or professional program; and

WHEREAS, the rising tuition and expenses, stagnant financial aid assistance, insufficient state funding, and the prevalence of low-wage jobs undermine the affordability and stymies the accessibility to higher education and the advancement of a highly-educated and skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2017, CUNY Board of Trustees adopted Calendar Item 4.A., requesting the state legislature to authorize a tuition increase of \$200 at CUNY senior colleges to generate \$31.3 million in revenue during the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year (FY) and if approved, this tuition increase would be the 14th tuition increase at CUNY senior colleges

since the 1990-1991 AY (28 years), tuition increases thwart New Yorkers, especially those from minority communities from the right to live a prosperous life; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, as members of the DSC, the duly elected student government of the Graduate Center CUNY, endorse USS Resolution 1718-P05, which calls on New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature to freeze tuition at the current 2017-2018 AY rates for the upcoming academic year (2018-2019 AY) and indefinitely into future academic years at all CUNY colleges and provide \$31.3 million for CUNY senior colleges in the operating budget to support execution of this request; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the DSC hereby expressly continues to reject any extension of the "Rational" Tuition Plan or increases in tuition; and, be it still further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls for a continuation of the freeze on tuition increases at the current 2017-2018 rates; and, be it still further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls for a tuition-free CUNY, and, be it still further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls for a tuition-free CUNY; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DSC demands the State Legislature and Governor Cuomo adequately fund the increasing mandatory cost within CUNY as part of the Maintenance Of Effort.