



State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry  
**Academic Governance**

Resolution No: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by the Executive Committee of Academic Governance

**Resolution Requesting Clarification of the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan***

**Whereas** the SUNY ESF President released the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* (v4) on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and

**Whereas** the SUNY ESF Charter (New York Consolidated Laws Education Law – EDN § 6004. College Board of Trustees; powers and duties)<sup>1</sup> has been violated where it calls for any plan regarding enrollment to be formally submitted and adopted by the ESF Board of Trustees and then forwarded to the SUNY Board of Trustees for their approval; and

**Whereas** neither the recording of the October ESF Trustees meeting nor the video of the December ESF Trustees meeting indicates that the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* was presented and adopted by the ESF Board; and

**Whereas** the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* is already being carried out by the ESF Administration (e.g., removal of department chairs, increasing enrollment by Fall of 2018) without effective consultation with the campus community; and

**Whereas** the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* calls for significant reorganization of the academic departments and mission of the institution and yet despite a resolution requesting a consultation plan passed by Academic Governance in December of 2017, no consultation plan was released; and

**Whereas** the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* calls for a significant increase in enrollment beginning in Fall of 2018 to increase the revenue stream stemming from the undergraduate student tuition; and

**Whereas** questions from faculty, staff and students have been raised at meetings, through email and in-person communication, about the feasibility of how this increased enrollment will solve the fiscal issues while keeping the faculty to student ratio the same and maintaining our academic standards; and

**Whereas** increasing enrollment in departments that have capacity is still likely to create significant issues in departments who teach service courses and the SUNY Excels 2015 Performance and Improvement Plan ([https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/excels/SUNY-Excels-PIP-Narrative\\_Env.-Sci.-&-Forestry\\_20151223.pdf](https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/excels/SUNY-Excels-PIP-Narrative_Env.-Sci.-&-Forestry_20151223.pdf)) indicated that the “undergraduate enrollment in campus-based programs will reach capacity limits with our plan to increase enrollment to 1,900”; and

**Whereas** the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* is not sufficiently detailed such that the ESF community can make informed decisions or effectively and positively contribute to the discussion of the plan and its implementation; and

**Whereas** the actions already carried out and the lack of a clearly articulated plan for stakeholder engagement is a departure from ESF's long history of shared decision making;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Membership of Academic Governance requests that the ESF administration fully reveal their plans for effectively engaging the ESF community with respect to *Pursuit of Excellence Plan* by the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Membership of Academic Governance requests a detailed analysis in writing of the costs and benefits associated with increasing enrollment, including but not limited to the costs of new classrooms and teaching laboratories, new faculty and support staff, new housing, new transportation, new food facilities, that will be required to support these students; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Membership of Academic Governance requests that a detailed community engagement and consultation strategy be released to the campus community (administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and other stakeholders) no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, so that the campus community members know how they may have their opinions heard; and

**Finally be it resolved** that the Membership of Academic Governance expresses its dissatisfaction and disappointment in the lack of shared governance demonstrated by the ESF administration with the dissemination and initial implementation of the *Pursuit of Excellence Plan*.

Resolution passed 20 February 2018



Colin Beier, Secretary, SUNY ESF Academic Governance

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Background

<sup>1</sup> Website for NYS Law: <http://codes.findlaw.com/ny/education-law/edn-sect-6004.html>