

County Community College  
Michael J. Grant Campus

Academic Assembly

**Resolution 2019-09 [08]**

**Calling for**

**Additional Faculty Representation**

**in the Search for a New College President**

**Whereas** Suffolk County Community College has begun the search for a new President of the College, with a view to filling the position by July of 2020, and

**Whereas** guidelines from the State University of New York require that “The college trustees shall formulate and record the policies and procedures of appointment and conditions of employment of the president,”[[1]](#footnote-2) and

**Whereas** those guidelines also state that a community college presidential search committee “should include representation from the several college constituencies. Such broad representation should include faculty, administrative and support staff, union leadership, student, alumni, and foundation representation and … members of the board itself,” and

**Whereas** on September 19, 2019, the Board of Trustees approved the creation of the Presidential Search Committee with the following membership:

* College Board of Trustees -3 representatives appointed by the Chair of the College Board of Trustees
* SUNY Chancellor - 1 non-voting representative appointed by the Chancellor of SUNY
* County Legislature - the Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature or his appointee
* County Executive - 1 representative appointed by the Suffolk County Executive
* Faculty Association - the President of the Faculty Association of Suffolk County Community College or his appointee
* Governance -the President of the Grant Campus Academic Assembly, the President of the Ammerman Campus Faculty Senate, and the Chairperson of the Eastern Campus Congress
* Guild of Administrative Officers - the President of the Guild or her appointee
* Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees (AME) - the President of AME or his appointee·
* Suffolk Community College Foundation - the Chair of the Foundation Board or her appointee, and 1 additional representative appointed by the Chair of the Foundation Board
* Alumni -1 representative appointed by the Chair of the Board of Trustees
* Student Government - the Student Trustee
* Long Island Business Community - 2 representatives appointed by the Chair of the College Board of Trustees[[2]](#footnote-3)[[3]](#footnote-4)

and

**Whereas** the President of an institution of higher learning is uniquely placed to influence the culture of that institution, and

**Whereas** the selection of the President of the College is therefore the most important appointment the Board of Trustees can make, and

**Whereas** the College, in addition to the various other services it provides to the community, is first and foremost an academic institution, and

**Whereas** those functioning as representatives of a constituent group ought to selected by the groups they represent, and

**Whereas** the American Association of University Professors’ statement on “Government of Colleges and Universities”[[4]](#footnote-5) asserts:

Joint effort of a most critical kind must be taken when an institution chooses a new president. The selection of a chief administrative officer should follow upon a cooperative search by the governing board and the faculty, taking into consideration the opinions of others who are appropriately interested. The president should be equally qualified to serve both as the executive officer of the governing board and *as the chief academic officer of the institution and the faculty* (emphasis added).

and

**Whereas** American Association of University Professionals’ statement on “Faculty Participation in the Selection, Evaluation, and Retention of Administrators”[[5]](#footnote-6) has asserted

the primary role of faculty and board in the search for a president. The search may be initiated either by separate committees of the faculty and board or by a joint committee of the faculty and board or of faculty, board, students, and others; and separate committees may subsequently be joined. In a joint committee, the numbers from each constituency should reflect both the primacy of faculty concern and the range of other groups, including students, that have legitimate claim to some involvement. *Each group should select its own members to serve on the committee*, and the rules governing the search should be arrived at jointly (emphasis added).

be it therefore,

**Resolved** that the Grant Campus Academic Assembly affirms the importance of academic values — including shared governance, academic freedom and robust intellectual debate — as essential to our institutional culture, and be it further

**Resolved** that the Grant Campus Academic Assembly affirms that said values should be of primary importance when selecting a President of the College, and be it further

**Resolved** that the Grant Campus Academic Assembly calls for the Presidential search committee have broad faculty representation, and be it further

**Resolved** that the Grant Campus Academic Assembly calls for the College Board of Trustees to appoint at least three additional faculty representatives to the Presidential search committee, those appointees being selected through a fair and open election by the College faculty, and be it further

**Resolved** that the Grant Campus Academic Assembly directs the Chairperson of the Assembly to communicate this resolution to the College Administration and Board of Trustees.

Passed [48-0-0] on October 1, 2019

1. “Guidelines for Presidential Searches for

   Community Colleges,” 2005. (<https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/lookup.cfm?lookup_id=205>) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <http://www3.sunysuffolk.edu/Boards/Archive/2965.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. It is noteworthy that SUNY’s “Guide to Presidential Searches at State-Operated Institutions” (<https://www.suny.edu/sunypp/docs/851.pdf>) calls for a presidential search committee composed of 17 members, six of which (35.3%) are fulltime faculty members elected by the faculty, whereas the committee formulated by the College Board of Trustees is composed of 18 members, only three of which (16.7%) are academic faculty representatives, and none of whom were elected by the faculty for the expressed purpose of serving on the presidential search committee. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. <https://www.aaup.org/report/statement-government-colleges-and-universities> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. “Guide to Presidential Searches at State-Operated Institutions” [↑](#footnote-ref-6)