



**To:** SUNY University Faculty Senate  
**From:** Undergraduate Academic Policies and Programs Committee  
**RE:** A Resolution Reiterating University Faculty Senate Commitment to Education about Racism and American History and in Support of the “AAUP Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History”  
**Date:** 189th Plenary, October 7-9, 2021  
**Location:** Online  
**Resolution #:** 189-05-1  
**Vote:** For: 38 / Against: 0 / Abstain: 1

#### **RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS** the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) issued a June 16, 2021, statement jointly with more than 100 scholarly associations and organizations stating their “firm opposition to a spate of legislative proposals being introduced across the country that target academic lessons, presentations, and discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, colleges and universities”; and

**WHEREAS** the SUNY University Faculty Senate (SUNY UFS) has a long history of supporting academic freedom, including critical examination of history; and

**WHEREAS** as Faculty of the University we are obliged to “participate significantly in the initiation, development and implementation of the educational program,” and we seek to encourage the exchange of ideas and develop the critical thinking skills of our students; and

**WHEREAS** equity and inclusion in higher education, including an unflinching look at racism in the American past and present, is a crucial element of UFS’s mission for the future of SUNY; and

**WHEREAS** in the past 24 months SUNY UFS has passed multiple resolutions in support of racial equity on college campuses and in college classrooms, including Resolution 186-01-1, Resolution 187-03-01, and Resolution 187-04-01;

#### **RESOLUTION:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the SUNY University Faculty Senate, supporting the letter and spirit of the “AAUP Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History,” will add their name as formal signatories to the statement; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the SUNY UFS calls on SUNY campus governance bodies to individually endorse the AAUP Joint Statement; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the SUNY UFS calls on its President, Officers, Executive Committee, campus governance leaders (CGLs), and Senators to use their positions as higher education leaders to educate their communities on the dangers of such described legislation and the importance of racial equity and academic freedom.

## **BACKGROUND:**

AAUP Joint Statement on Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism:

<https://www.aaup.org/news/joint-statement-efforts-restrict-education-about-racism>

SUNY Policies of the Board of Trustees Art. X. § 4., 2021

[https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/boardoftrustees/SUNY\\_BOARD\\_Policies\\_August2021.pdf](https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/boardoftrustees/SUNY_BOARD_Policies_August2021.pdf)

SUNY UFS Resolution 186-01-1

[https://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/186-01-1\\_eid\\_racial\\_equity\\_and\\_social\\_justice\\_curriculum.pdf](https://system.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/faculty-senate/plenary/186-01-1_eid_racial_equity_and_social_justice_curriculum.pdf)

SUNY UFS Resolution 187-03-1

[http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/187-03-1\\_blm\\_board\\_of\\_trustees\\_black\\_lives\\_matter.pdf](http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/187-03-1_blm_board_of_trustees_black_lives_matter.pdf)

SUNY UFS Resolution 187-04-1

[http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/187-04-1\\_university\\_faculty\\_senate\\_black\\_lives\\_matter.pdf](http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/187-04-1_university_faculty_senate_black_lives_matter.pdf)