

## **UUP EXECUTIVE BOARD RESOLUTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AGENDA**

**WHEREAS**, the Coronavirus Pandemic has emerged as having a destructive impact on communities of color, both in terms of deaths and in the collapse of economic activity in these communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Depression presently impacting the United States is having an exponentially worse impact on communities of color, as indicated in unemployment rates that are twice the national average; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent killings of African Americans by police officers has continued a historical pattern of racism, manifested in state sponsored violence against all communities of color, including Latinx and Native Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Climate Crisis is impacting under-resourced communities of color more deeply than anywhere else in the United States, bringing destructive flooding, property losses, and worsening health conditions for all in these communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the decades-long austerity policies in the federal and state governments have devastated all areas of the public sector, with the exception of police forces and the military, negatively impacting the socio-economic well-being of those outside the richest in American society; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the past four months, despite the onset of the Coronavirus Depression, the richest 1% of Americans have reaped tremendous gains in their income and wealth; and

**WHEREAS**, United University Professions has, throughout its history, stood on the frontlines of the struggles for social and economic justice; and

**WHEREAS**, in this time period, it is imperative that UUP take the lead once again to build a more just, equitable and humane society out of the wreckage of the present racial, health, economic and environmental crises.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Executive Board of UUP, meeting on June 26, 2020, commits the union to utilizing aggressive advocacy efforts to bring to reality the following policy proposals:

- The immediate passage of the HEROES Act by the US Senate, to be followed by the signing of this stimulus package by President Trump.
- The passage of the federal Green New Deal, and swift expansion of funding to insure the full implementation of New York's historic Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.
- The passage, before the end of the calendar year, by the state legislature of revenue enhancements in New York State that will target the ultra-millionaires and billionaires, to be followed by the signing of such tax legislation by Governor Cuomo.
- The aggressive utilization of all System Reserves and Miscellaneous Accounts so as to forestall the termination of any and all SUNY employees.
- The expansion of SUNY's efforts to diversify its administration, faculty and staff so as to reach the goal of having 25% of all such staff from under-represented communities of color by 2025.

- The passage of a publicly financed health care system, so as to provide universal health care, accessible to all, as a right.
- The commitment of resources so as to expand services provided by the SUNY Hospitals at Stony Brook, Downstate and Upstate, while also expanding services in communities beyond the walls of the hospitals to insure the health and well-being of all New Yorkers.
- The reduction of the costs of medical education at SUNY's five Academic Medical Centers so that by 2025, the total cost of a medical education will not be greater than \$25,000, thereby expanding the number of medical professionals serving New Yorkers.
- The creation of a Medical Educational Opportunity Program so as to bring greater diversity to the medical profession.
- The doubling of the funding for and students served by SUNY's Opportunity Programs.
- The aggressive expansion of SUNY's green energy transformation, such that the system is carbon neutral by 2030.
- The aggressive expansion of degree programs across SUNY that serve to expand employment opportunities in green energy projects, while also focusing on research into the Climate Crisis and the mitigation of the impacts of this crisis throughout SUNY; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that UUP advocate with its national affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers, such that AFT calls on the AFL-CIO to suspend the membership of any and all unions representing police officers which do not endorse and institute reforms such that there is an end to the violence that has been perpetrated by their members against communities of color, and a transition in their mission to public safety, and away from militarized law enforcement; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that UUP work to insure that there is a full, national search for the next Chancellor of SUNY, and that SUNY aggressively recruit a member of an under-represented community of color; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that UUP chapters, with the support of resources provided by the statewide organization, work within their communities to build alliances with like-minded organizations, as they may exist, so as to broaden the scope of political support for these measures; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that UUP President Fred Kowal communicate this resolution's scope and intent to the leadership of NYSUT, the AFT, the AFL-CIO, Governor Cuomo, Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie and SUNY Board of Trustee's Chair Tisch.