



Resolution on Proposed Changes in the CUNY Board of Trustees Bylaws

Passed on October 28, 2011

WHEREAS, the proposed changes in the City University of New York Board of Trustees Bylaws significantly reduce the authority of duly elected student governance by removing student regulation of student organizations and extra-curricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of student organizations by duly elected students ensures accountability in the governance and fosters student participation in the life of the institution; and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes undermine the commitment to "student participation, responsibility, academic freedom, and due process" stated in the preamble of Article 15 of the bylaws; and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes constitute an assault on student governance; and

WHEREAS, CUNY becomes increasingly centralized, hierarchical, and less democratic, as duly elected faculty and student governance are replaced by centrally-appointed administration; and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes to the bylaws were only made available to student representatives ten days before the Board of Trustees Committee on Student Affairs and Special Programs meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Doctoral Students' Council represents over 4,700 members of the Graduate School many of whom are simultaneously students and faculty across the many CUNY campuses; therefore, now, be it

RESOLVED that the Doctoral Students' Council calls on the Board of Trustees Committee on Student Affairs and Special Programs to reject these proposed changes and revert to the previous version of the bylaws Section 15.2; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that if the proposed changes are put forward for a vote as they stand, the Doctoral Students' Council calls upon the Board of Trustees to delay their vote in order to allow for adequate University-wide discussion of these changes; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the DSC reaffirms its sovereignty over student activity funds and authority to regulate student organization and extracurricular activities; and

FINALLY RESOLVED that the DSC reaffirms the importance of the empowerment of students through democratic governance and calls upon the Board of Trustees to do the same.