



## **Resolution on Governor David Paterson's Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act**

Passed March 26, 2010

Whereas Governor Paterson's Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act would authorize the CUNY and SUNY Trustees to implement tuition policy and differential tuition rates and move tuition policy outside of the state budgetary process;

Whereas responsibility for public higher education belongs in the hands of elected officials and not appointed trustees with zero public accountability;

Whereas the proposed act will result in continuous tuition increases across all campuses and programs, making higher education more unaffordable each year and placing it out of reach for New York's poorest families;

Whereas tuition differentials across degrees will make science, business, and professional programs less accessible to low and moderate-income students and devalue degrees granted by other programs;

Whereas these tuition increases will outpace Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) awards and increase the immediate out-of-pocket expenditures needed to participate in public higher education programs;

Whereas accountability and investment in public education is vital for future of the state and city of New York;

Whereas the Doctoral Students' Council represents all 4,700 doctoral and master's students at the Graduate Center;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Doctoral Students' Council opposes the Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act tuition policy and financing plan; and

Be it further resolved, that the Doctoral Students' Council joins the SUNY Student Assembly in opposing CUNY and SUNY budget cuts and reductions in TAP awards;

Be it further resolved, that the Doctoral Students' Council calls on state lawmakers to protect our access to public higher education.