

University Senate Resolution on Shared Service Centers

Whereas, the original intent of process that led to the establishment of shared service centers was to increase efficiency, mainly in ‘back office’ functions, and thus save money that could be redirected to the academic sector, and

Whereas, the current concept of shared service centers impinges directly on the functioning of academic departments and programs, and

Whereas, current consultations with key administrators have suggested that there is not likely to be any significant cost savings from the establishment of shared service centers immediately or in the near future, and

Whereas, apparently, there has been no systematic research on the effectiveness of shared service centers in increasing administrative efficiency and saving money, especially in academic areas, at other institutions of higher education, and

Whereas, current discussions with relevant faculty and professional staff suggest that the universal establishment of shared service centers would not increase efficiency but would, however, create serious morale problems that would negatively impact the functioning of the affected units.

Therefore, be it resolved that the formation and implementation of shared service centers in the academic sector be halted immediately, and a systematic analysis of the effect of the establishment of these centers in academic areas at other institutions of higher education be undertaken,

Therefore, be it further resolved that the groups involved in considering the implementation of SSCs undertake a systematic investigation of the experience with these centers at comparable research universities, including both direct contact with faculty and staff at relevant institutions and review of relevant scholarship.

Therefore, be it further resolved that no such centers be established at Stony Brook University in the academic sectors without full consultation and planning participation of both the affected staff and the affected faculty.