TITLE: Motion to Approve a Resolution that the Board of Trustees Conduct a National Search for the next President of the College.

INTRODUCTION: This motion asks the Senate to approve a symbolic resolution requesting that the Board (1) establish a search committee that represents various stakeholders to conduct a national search for the next president of the College; (2) search for a candidate who understands the complex challenges facing higher education; and (3) keep the campus community apprised of the progress of the search.

MOTION:  
A Resolution that the Board of Trustees Conduct A National Search for the next President of the College

WHEREAS: Public Colleges and Universities in the United States are facing complex challenges, including: lower levels of State support, rising tuition, rapidly changing technologies for delivering course content on-line, and increased State and Federal oversight aimed at increasing accountability and controlling costs; and

WHEREAS: The Faculty, Administration, and Board of Trustees of the College are all committed to enhancing the quality of the graduate and undergraduate programs we offer; and

WHEREAS: The By-Laws of The Board of Trustees do not explicitly state any procedures for how to search for a new President.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The College needs to find a dynamic, visionary, and highly qualified person to lead us toward our envisioned future. Toward this end, the Faculty Senate recommends that the Board of Trustees organize a national search for the next President of the College that includes representatives from all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, alumni, students, and administrators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: In order to successfully lead our institution in this challenging environment, well-qualified candidates must have significant administrative leadership experience in higher education (or must have both significant leadership experience and a thorough understanding of the current challenges facing institutions of higher education); and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT: The organization and progress of the search be communicated to the campus community in a timely fashion.
RATIONALE: The power to search for the president is vested in the Board. The Board can establish any procedure they want to. However, given that institutions of higher education currently face a complex set of pressures, it is important that the next President of the College be an outstanding leader who understands this challenging environment. The idea of this resolution is simple: by conducting a national search, we increase the chances of finding a talented leader by attracting a pool of applicants who have both demonstrated leadership abilities and who understand how to navigate the complex and competitive higher education system. In addition, it is important to establish an inclusive process (giving all stakeholders -- including faculty -- a voice on the search committee) and to keep the various stakeholders informed about the progress of the search.