RESOLVED, That the CUNY School of Professional Studies ("SPS"), established and currently operating within the CUNY Graduate School and University Center ("GSUC"), be allowed to seek an independent registration as an institution of Higher Education with the New York State Department Education, with an independent degree authority for its academic programs as well as an independent accreditation status with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. A corresponding request will be filed with NYSED, including a Master Plan Amendment as necessary. The academic programs currently being offered by the SPS and registered to the GSUC will be transferred to the SPS following its establishment as a stand-alone institution.

EXPLANATION: The CUNY School of Professional Studies (SPS) was created in 2003 by CUNY’s Board of Trustees with the purpose of meeting the educational needs of working adults, organizations, and employers. Since then, SPS has developed into a well-established school serving New York City through the provision of innovative, and academically rigorous programs of study designed to address new or unmet needs. Home to CUNY's first fully online undergraduate degrees, groundbreaking master's degree programs, customized programs for city and state agencies, and the nationally renowned Joseph S. Murphy Institute, SPS has found new ways of fulfilling CUNY's mission of access.

Similar to other cross-campus initiatives, SPS was initially established within the GSUC. However, SPS has been operating with a high degree of independence from the beginning. SPS has its own local governance body which is independent from the governance body of the Graduate School as well as other entities comprising the University Center. SPS provides student support and most administrative services independently of the GSUC. In addition, there is no overlap between academic programs at the SPS and the GSUC.

After the formal separation of SPS from the GSUC, all faculty and administrative staff are expected to remain in place. The main campus of SPS will continue to be at 119 West 31st Street, where the University is currently leasing 68,000 square feet of space on five floors. This space is complemented by two floors of administrative space leased by the University at 101 West 31st Street, and the Murphy Institute’s facility located at 25 West 43rd Street.

The proposed action brings the formal organizational structure up to date with the operational and academic procedures currently in place. SPS has reached the point of institutional maturity at which it is ready to be registered as a stand-alone institution. This action will simplify a number of administrative matters and allow greater visibility for SPS programs, which are meant to attract students not only locally, but nationally and internationally.