 

**Board of Trustees of The City University of New York**

**RESOLUTION TO**

**Authorize the Purchase of IPads and Chromebooks for Emergency Distribution to Students in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**March 30, 2020**

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to the Education Law, Article 125B, The City University Construction Fund (“CUCF”) is authorized to provide capital facilities and equipment for and to support the educational purposes of The City University of New York (the “University”); and

**WHEREAS,** Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202 declaring a Disaster Emergency in the State of New York on March 7, 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

**WHEREAS,** The University, in compliance with the State and City’s emergency declarations, transitioned to a distance learning model on March 19, 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** The Chancellor has recognized that the move to distance education has exacerbated disparities of equity and access among the student body; and

**WHEREAS,** The University, using existing University and New York State contracts, would like to procure 16,500 Apple IPads with protective cases from Apple, Inc., 13,500 Dell Chromebooks from Dell Computer, and 3,500 Lenovo Chromebooks from CDW Government, Inc. (collectively, the “Emergency IT Equipment”) for distribution to CUNY students in need of such devices to support their academic continuity; and

**WHEREAS,** New York State Executive Order 202, effective March 7, 2020, provided in pertinent part that State Finance Law, Section 163 and Economic Development Law Article 4-C be suspended, together with the New York State Controller’s waiver of pre-audit requirements for emergency purchases to the extent necessary to allow for the purchase of necessary commodities, services, technology and materials, the University procured and engaged on an emergency basis, Custom Computer Specialists to provide logistical support to ensure that proper asset management controls would be in place to facilitate the distribution of the Emergency IT Equipment to the University campuses (the “Distribution Services”); and

**WHEREAS**, Funding for an amount not to exceed $15,000,000 has been appropriated to CUCF for the purchase of Emergency IT Equipment and the distribution of such equipment by Custom Computer Specialists, of which $12,500,000 or eighty-three percent (83%) is being provided by the State of New York and $2,500,000 or seventeen percent (17%) is being provided by the City of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** The University’s Board of Trustees desires that the University take such steps to reduce the impact of technology access by providing computing equipment to qualifying students to aid in continued access to instruction.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the University’s Board of Trustees request CUCF to provide funding for the Emergency IT Equipment in an amount not to exceed $15,000,000; and

**BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, That the above appropriation shall include funding for the Distribution Services in an amount not to exceed $600,000, and

**BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** That the University’s Board of Trustees hereby approve and ratifies all emergency actions taken by the University since March 7, 2020 in connection with the procurement and implementation of the Emergency IT Equipment and the Distribution Services.

**EXPLANATION:** The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 pandemic requires the University to take immediate steps to respond and adapt its current instruction to support distance learning. The University has made this emergency move to online learning in a very short timeframe in order to continue instruction while maintaining responsible social distancing.

The Chancellor recognizes the need to reduce the technological barriers to access facing numerous CUNY students due to lack of equipment to access instruction. The university therefore expects to provide up to 33,500 students with devices to facilitate their ongoing academic progress through online instruction.