

Proposed Resolution on the Proposed Teacher Education Graduate Program

1. Whereas historically more than 90% of the Old Westbury teacher education graduates pass the New York State Teacher Certification Examination (NYSTCE), and,
2. Whereas the Teacher Education Department originally proposed the implementation of a graduate level program in 1993 after securing CAP approval, and,
3. Whereas the 1993 proposal was completed to abide by State Education and SUNY Guidelines and complied with all requisites including: Letters of Intent, Complete Proposal, and External Evaluations, and,
4. Whereas the State University of New York System Administration never informed the College leadership and faculty why the 1993 proposal was never considered, read, or evaluated, and,
5. Whereas in December, 2000 the Teacher Education and Business Departments were given the go-ahead to submit graduate program proposals that should comply with State Education Department and SUNY guidelines, and,
6. Whereas members of the Teacher Education Department, working closely with Dr. Linda Biemer, the former Dean of the School of Education at SUNY Binghamton and NCATE Advisor, completed proposals to comply with new regulations governing the submission of proposals for both the State Education Department and SUNY, and,
7. Whereas there is a critical shortage of permanently/professionally certified teachers of Special Education in New York State, on Long Island and New York City, and,
8. Whereas the proposed program to prepare Special Education teachers is consistent with the traditional mission of the College at Old Westbury that calls for efforts to address social justice, and,
9. Whereas the College at Old Westbury has certified and experienced faculty-members in Special Education to institute a modest program at the graduate level, and,
10. Whereas the existing qualified Teacher Education Department faculty will be augmented by additional faculty who are being sought, and,

11. Whereas the implementation of a modest program in Special Education will not injure the existing undergraduate programs in Elementary/Childhood, Special Education and Secondary/Adolescence Education, and,
12. Whereas the greatest number of Teacher Education graduates achieve certification in Elementary/Childhood Education, and indicate a strong interest in Special Education at the graduate level, and,
13. Whereas all Teacher Education graduates must complete a Masters Degree to achieve permanent/professional certification, and,
14. Whereas the Teacher Education faculty is duly qualified and all tenure-track members hold doctoral degrees, and,
15. Whereas the proposed graduate program in Special Education will enhance the image and potentially increase enrollment, and,
16. Whereas the proposed Teacher Education Department program can lead to graduate courses and program in the allied liberal arts and sciences departments, and,
17. Whereas the revised graduate program proposal has not been considered fully and its review halted after it was begun, without written or verbal justification, and,
18. Whereas all previously submitted undergraduate Teacher Education proposals have been approve for registration without revisions, and
19. Whereas the graduate program proposal is entitled to the same, complete review as the undergraduate proposals, and,
20. Whereas the Teacher Education proposal review has been halted before a campus Readiness Review has been undertaken, and,
21. Whereas the originally designated Teacher Education representative from the State Education department has been asked to halt the review and removed from the Readiness Review Team without written or verbal justification, and,
22. Whereas the Teacher Education Department primarily serves women and graduates large numbers of women, minority group students, and the largest number of pre-service bilingual education teachers,

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the College at Old Westbury urges the Office of Academic Affairs, the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, and most importantly the College President, Dr. Calvin O. Butts to:

- A) endorse and insist that a review and evaluation of the proposed Teacher Education Department graduate program in Special Education be completed and,
- B) ask for the reinstatement of Mr. Richard Gervais as the State Education Department teacher education representative to the Readiness Review Team that is to visit the campus in March, 2003, and
- C) request the Readiness Review Team to consider the resources and facilities of the campus as they relate to teacher preparation, and,
- D) work to ensure approval of the Teacher Education Department proposed graduate program in Special Education for implementation by September 2003 without further delay.