

Resolution to Keep All Liberal Education Domains Required With the SUNY General Education Framework for Fall 2023

Introduction

Old Westbury's General Education program is at the core of our mission as a liberal arts college that is focused on diversity and social justice. On November 9, 2021, SUNY Board of Trustees presented a new General Education Framework to be adopted by all 64 campuses to begin in Fall 2023. In alignment with our mission, Old Westbury requires students take classes across from all general education domains (Liberal Education Program) to benefit from a broad study of courses that fulfills our mission by following best practices in offering such courses. In 2015, we retained the ten domains that reflect the strengths of our faculty and curriculum, while meeting SUNY's 7 of 10 mandate. This creative response has proved successful over the interim years.

WHEREAS, SUNY Old Westbury welcomes GEAC recommendations as guidance to help our campus further develop and strengthen our liberal education programs. However, we are concerned that the proposed framework will negatively impact programs and students by weakening our rigorous and mission-driven curriculum, and

WHEREAS, our response to the 2015 revision provides us with a mechanism for retaining our existing domains while meeting the proposed Humanities, Social Sciences, the Arts, US History & Civic Engagement, World History & Global Awareness, and World Languages, in order to protect the rigor and quality of Old Westbury's well-rounded liberal arts curriculum based on faculty expertise in specific fields, and

WHEREAS, continuing this compromise allows Old Westbury to reinforce our general education curriculum's direct connection to our Mission, and

WHEREAS, continuing our compromise will protect the strength and rigor of academic programs, and allow us to maintain the variety of courses offered at all levels and curricular options available to students that are the core of a liberal arts education.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Faculty Senate approve our exemption request from the proposed framework, which allows us to require all 10 domain areas using the compromise we developed in 2015, as we have been doing since the last GE revision as the domain redesign, to retain the integrity of our curriculum, the variety of our offerings, and thereby uphold both our social justice mission and the quality of our students' education.