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University Faculty Senate

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February 15, 2012

TO: CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein & Cabinet
CUNY Board of Trustees
CUNY College Presidents
CUNY Provosts
CUNY Council of Faculty Governance Leaders

FR: Sandi E. Cooper, Chair



For your information, on February 10, 2012, the Council of Faculty Governance Leaders* unanimously adopted the following statement:

1. The Guidelines issued by the Office of Academic Affairs on January 24, 2012, stating that common core courses must all be 3 hours, 3 credits, go beyond the Board resolution creating Pathways in June, 2011, and go beyond the Common Core structure recommendations of the appointed faculty Task Force to the Chancellor accepted on December 1, 2011. Moreover this "Guideline" ignores common practice in CUNY and across the nation particularly in general education courses in Science and English composition where at least 4 hours for 3 credits is common.
2. The Guidelines being issued by the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs stating that majors may not include certain common core courses OR may not establish pre-major requirements that resemble general education courses equally contradict academic practice and the authority of faculty, including its academic freedom, to determine the content of a respectable degree and also go beyond what was authorized by the CUNY BOT and in the Task Force Report.
3. State Education Law and the Regulations of the Commissioner do not establish the credit/hour requirements for courses but permit colleges to make such decisions within parameters generally known as Carnegie units.

*The Council of Faculty Governance Leaders is composed of the highest-ranking elected faculty members from each CUNY college senate or council.