

B.I.13 - RESOLUTION ON CREATING AN EFFICIENT TRANSFER SYSTEM

Rationale

The City University of New York experiences large student transfer flows among all of its undergraduate colleges. To enhance transfer students' progress toward degree completion, CUNY must insure that students' credits earned from any CUNY college transfer smoothly and efficiently to all other CUNY colleges.

New York State Education Law Section 6201 specifies that CUNY is one university and must have clear transfer paths and curricular alignment across its colleges. A unified General Education Framework for all colleges, including a set number of general education credits required across CUNY, will clarify the general education requirements that students must meet at any CUNY college, and will insure that general education credits will transfer to other CUNY colleges. Students will also benefit from greater clarity about which courses they should take for entry into their majors, no matter at which college the major is offered. Finally, students must be assured that electives they take at any college will transfer, with full credit, to any other college. Together, such policies will increase students' efficiency in progressing towards their degrees by reducing time to degree and credits acquired in excess of what is needed for graduation, saving resources for students themselves and for the larger CUNY community.

Integral to this resolution is CUNY's commitment to the highest academic standards and to the faculty's special responsibility for courses and curriculum. Also integral to this resolution is a commitment to providing colleges with the flexibility to maintain their distinctive identities and traditions.

Now be it

Resolved, that the portion of CUNY's General Education Framework that is common to all CUNY colleges, to be called the "Common Core," will total 30 credits. The other portion of CUNY's General Education Framework, the portion that is specific to each baccalaureate college, to be called the "College Option," will consist of an additional 12 credits.

All CUNY undergraduates will be required to complete the 30-credit Common Core in order to graduate with an A.A., A.S., or baccalaureate degree. All students who satisfactorily complete courses within the Common Core will be certified as having achieved partial or full completion of the Common Core, as appropriate, and that certification will transfer among all CUNY colleges.

All CUNY baccalaureate students will be required to complete 12 College-Option general education credits as well in order to graduate (except as specified below for students who transfer from associate- to baccalaureate-degree programs). College-Option general education credits will transfer as such among all CUNY baccalaureate colleges.

In addition, all associate-degree students, including A.A.S. students, who transfer to baccalaureate programs will be required to complete the receiving college's College-Option general education credits as follows:

- 1) Students who transfer with 30 or fewer total credits from any college (including non-CUNY regionally accredited colleges) will be required to earn a maximum of 12 of the receiving college's College-Option general education credits;
- 2) Students who transfer with more than 30 total credits from any college (including non-CUNY regionally accredited colleges) but without an associate degree will be required to earn a maximum of 9 of the receiving college's College-Option general education credits;
- 3) Students who transfer with an associate degree from any college (including non-CUNY regionally accredited colleges) will be required to earn a maximum of 6 of the receiving college's College-Option general education credits.

Thus, in order to receive the A. A. or A. S. degree, students will be required to complete a total of 30 general education credits (the Common Core), and in order to receive the baccalaureate, students will be required to complete a total of 36 to 42 general education credits depending on the students' transfer status. Further, no matter how many CUNY colleges any of these students attend, if a student transfers from one CUNY college to another, all general education course credits of all types will be accepted as general education credits of that type without further evaluation, and be it further

Resolved, that the Chancellor, in consultation with the Council of Presidents, the University Faculty Senate, and the University Student Senate, will convene a Task Force of faculty, students, and academic administrators, with faculty members predominant, and charge it with recommending to the Chancellor a structure for the Common Core by December 1, 2011.

The Task Force will develop the broad disciplinary or interdisciplinary areas constituting the Common Core for the University, as defined by learning outcomes. It will also identify the number of credits to be allocated to each such area. Within these guidelines, the Task Force may make more specific recommendations regarding individual associate- and baccalaureate-degree programs, such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs.

The Task Force will consist of a steering committee, including balanced representation from the college sectors, as well as a working committee, including representatives from all undergraduate colleges and all large-enrollment disciplines. The steering committee will have the authority to establish subcommittees consisting of Task Force members and others in various fields and areas of expertise as needed, and be it further

Resolved, that after the Task Force has advanced its recommendations and the Chancellor has approved the structure of the Common Core, all CUNY undergraduate colleges will specify individual courses for this Core. These courses must meet the approved learning outcomes. Working with the colleges, the University Office of Academic Affairs will facilitate the expeditious review and approval of all courses proposed for the Common Core with the assistance of a CUNY-wide committee, appointed by the Chancellor, and consisting predominantly of faculty, to ensure that all learning outcomes are satisfied.

Any course or disciplinary area that is required of all students and is not specifically required for a student's major must fall within the Common Core or College-Option courses.

The Common Core will apply to all A.A., A.S., and baccalaureate degrees. By New York State Education Department regulations, A.A.S. degrees contain fewer liberal arts credits than do A.A. or A.S.

degrees. However, liberal arts requirements for A.A.S. degrees will be drawn from the courses approved for the Common Core such that A.A.S. students will receive partial certification for completion of the Core. If an A.A.S. student transfers to an A.A., A.S., or baccalaureate program, that student will need to complete the remainder of the 30-credit Core.

To insure that students in all degree programs have adequate information to plan their academic paths, colleges will clearly identify courses that are part of the Common Core or are College-Option courses, and all of these courses will be widely publicized by the University, and be it further

Resolved that each college will submit for the approval of the Chancellor by April 1, 2012, its plan for implementation of the General Education Framework, and be it further

Resolved, that clear pathways be created for the largest transfer majors. The Chancellor, in consultation with the Council of Presidents, the University Faculty Senate, and the University Student Senate, will convene relevant disciplinary committees consisting predominantly of faculty. By May 1, 2012, each such disciplinary committee will recommend for approval to the University Office of Academic Affairs no fewer than three and no more than six courses that will be accepted as entry-level courses for beginning the major, or as prerequisites for such courses, by all colleges offering those majors, and by Fall 2013 these courses must be offered and their status as major-entry courses widely publicized at each college offering the major, and be it further

Resolved, that all courses taken for credit at an undergraduate CUNY college be accepted for credit at every other CUNY undergraduate college, regardless of whether a specific equivalency exists at the transfer college, to an extent consistent with grade requirements and residency rules at the transfer colleges, and be it further

Resolved, that students transferring from outside CUNY will have their courses evaluated expeditiously and will receive credits for general education, major, and elective courses if those courses meet the appropriate learning outcomes, and be it further

Resolved, that as an additional component of improving transfer, an appeals mechanism will be established by the Chancellor for undergraduate students who wish to appeal denial or restriction of transfer credit, and be it further

Resolved, that all possible technological assistance be brought to bear on providing the colleges with academic information about their transfer applicants, and on providing students and their advisors with information about the transferability and major-requirement status of courses, and be it further

Resolved, that all of these pathways policies and processes, including the Common Core, be reviewed and evaluated each year for three years beginning in 2013, and every three years thereafter, to modify them as necessary to improve them or to meet changing needs.