Faculty Council of Community Colleges

Resolution on Shared Governance Processes in the Student Mobility Initiative
FCCC Resolution #G2-2009-10

May 21, 2010

WHEREAS, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) greatly appreciates the significant progress which has been made on the transferability of courses within SUNY, and

WHEREAS, the FCCC reaffirms our support for the principles expressed in the Trustees’ Resolution of November 2009: “Students transferring without a SUNY A.A. or an A.S. degree will receive full credit for general education courses successfully completed (i.e., for which credit was awarded at the prior institution) as well as for all other first- and second-year courses generally offered at SUNY four-year institutions, and will not be required to repeat successfully completed courses with similar curricular content. They will also receive credit toward the major for all successfully completed first- and second-year courses with similar curricular content offered at that SUNY four-year institution,” and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that certain activities which facilitate student mobility, such as the identification of common course categories or the creation of course descriptors or perhaps course templates, may sometimes be necessary to resolve issues with transferability in those academic disciplines in which consensus is lacking about curricular content, and

WHEREAS, curriculum and standards are the purview of faculty governance, and

WHEREAS, the reviews of courses in accounting, criminal justice, social work, communications, etc. have taken place through a process and within a timeframe which has precluded legitimate and necessary faculty governance participation, and

WHEREAS, the course templates developed from the reviews of accounting courses are overly prescriptive, with detailed outlines of required course content, going well beyond the Board of Trustees’ concept of transferability based on similar course content, and threatening the autonomy and academic freedom of faculty on the campuses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the courses and majors to be reviewed in the process of facilitating student mobility, as well as the desired timeframes, be communicated, at a minimum, to all SUNY campus chief academic officers and campus faculty governance leaders, in a manner allowing time for deliberation and for the appropriate selection of faculty participants, and be it further

RESOLVED, that SUNY not impose requirements and restrictions on campuses, in the name of transferability, which arrogate local faculty prerogatives of academic freedom and pedagogical decisions, notably decisions regarding assessment methods, text selection, grading rubrics and learning outcomes, and be it further
RESOLVED, that the FCCC and the UFS work with the Provost to create a comprehensive plan which ensures that all activities necessary to facilitate student mobility within SUNY follow shared governance procedures and are completed within appropriate and mutually acceptable time frames. These activities include, but are not limited to, the review of courses and curricula by faculty, the identification of common course categories, the creation of course descriptors, the approval of proposals from faculty groups, and the systematic ongoing review of the SUNY student mobility initiative.