Resolution on Program Consolidations, Deactivations, or Discontinuances

Resolution #G-1: 2010 – 2011
March 26, 2011

Whereas community colleges within the State University of New York are facing extraordinary financial pressures; and

Whereas these community colleges may be forced to consider program consolidations, deactivations, or discontinuances; and

Whereas the impact of program consolidations, deactivations or discontinuances is as significant to a campus as the establishment of programs; and

Whereas the procedures for reaching decisions on these matters have not always involved appropriate consultation with existing shared governance bodies; and

Whereas requests from campuses to deactivate or discontinue programs must be approved by the SUNY Provost; and

Whereas according to SUNY regulations, the approval of shared governance bodies is necessary to establish, modify, or discontinue programs; and

Whereas the University Faculty Senate passed a Resolution on Consultation with Governance on October 21, 2010: "The University Faculty Senate urges System Administration to ensure that campus administrations and existing governance bodies employ formal procedures for consultation before reaching any decisions regarding program consolidation, suspension or elimination;" and

Whereas the Chancellor responded to this resolution on December 14, 2010, by writing: "I agree that it is essential that campus administrators consult widely, but particularly with faculty governance and faculty in general (emphasis added) in formulating criteria to be used for programmatic deactivation or elimination (discontinuance). Following this UFS resolution, we have changed the form that campuses must submit in order to deactivate or discontinue a program. The form clearly states that campus chief academic officers are required to attest that consultation with the faculty, following the campus’s normal procedures, and, in particular, with faculty governance has occurred;" be it therefore

Resolved that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges urges each SUNY community college's shared governance body to review existing policies regarding program consolidation, deactivation, or discontinuance or to develop policies where none exist; and be it further

Resolved that such review or development be conducted through appropriate shared governance processes; and be it further
Resolved that policies regarding program consolidation, deactivation, or discontinuance include appropriate consultation with shared governance in the decision-making process; and be it further

Resolved that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges endorses the SUNY administration policy that supports and encourages the role of shared governance in reviewing or developing program consolidation, deactivation, or discontinuance processes and policies.

Glossary (Source: SUNY Form Request to Deactivate and/or Discontinue Programs)

Deactivation: A campus makes a decision not to admit any more students to a program but wishes to maintain the program's registration. This may be done to reassess the need for the program or restructure a program. This action is internal to SUNY and limited in duration to no more than three years.

Deactivation Effective Date: The first regular admission date for which new students will no longer be permitted to enroll in the program.

Discontinuance: A campus no longer offers the program nor awards a credential for completion of the program. The program is removed from the State Education Department's Inventory of Registered Programs. SUNY review/approval must precede SED review.

Discontinuance Effective Date: The last graduation date for which a credential for completion of the program is awarded.

Passed March 26, 2011