

Resolution on Transfer

Resolution AA4-2008-09

WHEREAS the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) agrees with the New York Commission on Higher Education's (CHE) Final Report when it states

1. the State of New York's prominence as a great global center depends on the vitality of our institutions of higher education,
2. our institutions of higher education must be positioned to adapt quickly to change,
3. and that credit transfer is fundamental to educational access and upward mobility; and

WHEREAS the FCCC further agrees with the CHE's recommendation that transfer and articulation are of paramount importance and recommends that articulation and transfer policies be strengthened and enforced to eliminate all unnecessary impediments; and

WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees first recognized the need for seamless transfer in 1972 and subsequently passed policy and procedures stating that "graduates, when accepted in parallel programs at baccalaureate campuses of the University, would be afforded full junior standing and would be given the opportunity to complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree within four additional semesters of full-time work;" and

WHEREAS the FCCC agrees with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) when it states:

1. every institution's admissions practices should ensure that students have a reasonable opportunity for success in meeting their educational goals, including transfer . . . ,
2. and that academic freedom is central to the academic enterprise; and

WHEREAS, in October 2007, the FCCC recognized the urgency of the longstanding transfer problems and passed a resolution (AA1-2007-2008) asking that a representative Task Force be created to improve transfer; and

WHEREAS, in December 2007, the SUNY Provost and the University Faculty Senate established a Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation with the following charge,

"The Special Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation is charged to explore ways of facilitating the transfer of students from one institution to another within the SUNY system and the articulation of programs that will facilitate the transfer process. In doing so, the committee needs to take into account the importance of smooth transfers of students within SUNY, the administrative feasibility of such a process, and prerogative of faculty to define the content of their courses and the resulting academic curriculum."; and

WHEREAS the FCCC appointed representatives to sit on the Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation; and

WHEREAS the SUNY Board of Trustees asked the Joint Committee to provide recommendations for strengthening transfer and articulation throughout the System; and

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees asked the Provost to oversee the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation and CHE Chairman Hunter Rawlings stated in his letter to Governor Paterson that efforts to strengthen articulation and transfer within SUNY are faculty-led; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation Resolution was approved by the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, the Student Assembly and the University Faculty Senate; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation Committee developed Recommendations for Implementation of the Joint Committee's resolution; and

WHEREAS seamless system-wide transfer is still not in place; and

WHEREAS the Joint Committee asked the Provost's office to continue its work on the transfer website in full consultation with the Joint Committee so that the website provides transfer information that accurately adheres to the resolution; and

WHEREAS the SUNY ACTS website is incomplete, inaccurate, does not contain data submitted by community colleges; and

WHEREAS the website, as is, may harm students' abilities to make informed decisions and may impede time to graduation; and

WHEREAS the FCCC is concerned about the lack of response from SUNY System Administration to these resolutions and the lack of progress made toward seamless transfer; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the FCCC urges the SUNY Board of Trustees to endorse and act upon the Joint Committee's Resolution as approved by the FCCC, SA, and UFS; and be it further

RESOLVED that the SUNY ACTS website be removed from public access and be developed offline in full consultation with the Joint Committee on Articulation and Transfer to ensure accuracy.

Passed March 28, 2009