

Resolution In Defense of Shared Governance

Proposed to the June 16, 2011 PSC Delegate Assembly by the PSC Officers

Whereas, the CUNY Board of Trustees Committee on Academic Policy, Programs, and Research(CAPPR) adopted a "Resolution on Creating an Efficient Transfer System," and will forward that resolution for consideration to the CUNY Board of Trustees at their June 27, 2011 meeting; and

Whereas, the CAPPR resolution does not include any of the changes to the resolution proposed by the University Faculty Senate representative at the CAPPR meeting; and

Whereas, the Resolution calls on the Chancellor to establish a "Task Force" "...and charge[s] it with recommending to the Chancellor a structure for the Common Core by December 1, 2011..." and directs the "Task Force" to "develop the broad disciplinary or interdisciplinary areas constituting the Common Core for the University, as defined by learning outcomes..." and directs the "Task Force" to advance its recommendations to the Chancellor for his approval; and

Whereas, the CAPPR Resolution authorizes the University Office of Academic Affairs to "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;

Whereas, the CAPPR Resolution authorizes the "Chancellor, in consultation with the Council of Presidents, the University Faculty Senate, and the University Student Senate...[to] convene relevant disciplinary committees consisting predominantly of faculty...to 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

Whereas, CUNY Bylaw Article 8.13 states, "There shall be a university faculty senate, responsible, subject to the board, for the formulation of policy relating to the academic status, role, rights, and freedoms of the faculty, university level educational and instructional matters, and research and scholarly activities of university-wide import....; and

Whereas, the above language was agreed to by CUNY in the 1997 Settlement Agreement of Polishook v. The City University of New York, and

Whereas, Bylaw Article 8.13 establishes the role of the University Faculty Senate in University-wide shared governance; and

Whereas, the CAPPR "Resolution on Creating an Efficient Transfer System" violates both the spirit and letter of Bylaw 8.13 and the principle of shared governance; and

Whereas the PSC supports the principle of shared governance and the University Faculty Senate's role in shared governance as outlined in Bylaw Article 8.13; therefore

Be it resolved, that the PSC Delegate Assembly calls on the CUNY Board of Trustees to reject the CAPPR "Resolution on Creating an Efficient Transfer System," and the PSC Delegate Assembly further calls on the Chancellor to enter into good faith discussions with the University Faculty Senate leadership to reformulate the CAPPR resolution so that the University Faculty Senate's governance role is properly structured into the University's general education and transfer policy and is in accordance with CUNY Board of Trustees' Bylaw Article 8.13.