



Faculty Council of Community Colleges Resolution: AAC1-24/25
The Importance of Early Engagement of Shared Governance Groups
in Policy Development

Passed Unanimously on October 19, 2024

WHEREAS the State University of New York (SUNY) General Education requirements have been required and integrated into all community college associate's degrees for more than 25 years, and

WHEREAS the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC) appreciates the consideration that was given to the feedback provided by campus stakeholders very much, and

WHEREAS previous General Education policy revisions (implemented on campuses in 2010 and 2023) were initiated by faculty through well-established shared governance processes, and

WHEREAS faculty at two community college campuses suggested, via typical Shared Governance processes in Faculty Council of Community colleges, that a civil discourse component should have been included in the U.S. History and Civic Education knowledge area, and

WHEREAS Chancellor John B. King, Jr. announced on June 4, 2024, changes would be made to General Education to include a new civil discourse competency (which has since changed to civic discourse) rather than adding to the existent knowledge area, and

WHEREAS the FCCC AAC supports the deep engagement and hard work of the Civil Discourse Fellows, FACT² AI team, and the SUNY Provost's office in collaborating to develop the competency and guidelines that were distributed for comment on September 3, 2024, and

WHEREAS Robert's Rules of Order require presenting an item in one governance meeting, then the following meeting may be a vote or further discussion, and most campuses meet once per month for their primary governance meeting, and

WHEREAS in two successive summers (2023 and 2024), there have been major policy changes announced by Chancellor King during the summer months, when the majority of community college faculty are not on contract, and no funding was provided to enable campuses to engage faculty off-contract, and

WHEREAS the FCCC's Open Letter on Shared Governance and General Education, dated August 29, 2022, states, "structured, deliberative, and established processes of shared governance in regard to curriculum are what best ensure the integrity of course and program revisions to result in the best pedagogical outcomes for our students," and

WHEREAS Shared Governance members are duly elected by their constituency to represent faculty interests while SUNY Fellows are appointed by SUNY administrators, and

WHEREAS Shared Governance is a time consuming but vital deliberative process, involving discussion, debate, and decision making among various stakeholders, and

WHEREAS the FCCC resolution "AAC1. 2023-2024: Exploring Ethical and Effective Use of Artificial Intelligence Within the State University of New York" requested more resources from SUNY to support students surrounding AI literacy, and

WHEREAS Chancellor King stated "that is one of the driving forces behind our work to update the information literacy competency in SUNY's general education framework to reflect AI" in his October 9, 2024, response to AAC1, while failing to provide funding, support, or resources to community colleges for that work; therefore,

WHEREAS the FCCC reiterates that Shared Governance is more than consulting a limited selection of faculty members who are not elected through a Shared Governance process, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the FCCC urges Chancellor King to prioritize Shared Governance involvement of elected delegates in the earliest stages of the development of academic policies, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the FCCC asks that SUNY initiatives tap into faculty expertise, like the Civil Discourse Fellows, but not to the exclusion of the duly elected faculty Shared Governance representation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the FCCC calls on Chancellor King to empower SUNY Provost Ramasubramanian to form a SUNY group to address General Education concerns as a collaborative group with representation from Faculty Council of Community Colleges, Association of Chief Academic Officers, University Faculty Senate, Student Assembly, and any other stakeholders to participate in the creation of all changes to policies and/or guidelines that General Education, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SUNY System Administration should provide a minimum of three months within the academic calendar to allow for appropriate collaboration and participation by relevant Shared Governance bodies in consequential matters: General Education is one such matter.