



## **Faculty Council of Community Colleges**

### **Resolution in Support of a Waiver Appeals Process in the Seamless Transfer Resolution Initiative**

**ASA4: 2013-2014**

**Passed Unanimously on April 5, 2014**

**Whereas** in its advisory role, the Student Mobility Steering Committee (SMSC) has recommended a waiver review process that is akin to the previous PACGE and ACGE processes used for the approval of general education courses, and

**Whereas** a successful waiver review process was used during the submission of general education courses through the use of PACGE and ACGE, to review campus appeals on the decisions made by the Office of the Provost with respect to these submissions, therefore be it

**Resolved** that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges respectfully requests that the current waiver review process be expanded to include an appeals process which convenes a committee with equal representation appointed by the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and the University Faculty Senate, as well as representation from the chief academic officers and a liaison from the Office of the Provost, to review any denied waiver requests and make further recommendations to the Provost if a campus wants to appeal the decision from the Provost's office.

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#### Background information:

In December 2010, the SUNY Provost entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and the University Faculty Senate which established the Student Mobility Steering Committee and its charge. According to the MOU,

The Student Mobility Steering Committee shall be a SUNY shared-governance standing committee that reports to the SUNY Provost, the Faculty Council of Community Colleges, and the University Faculty Senate. The Committee shall assume the duties of the SUNY Transfer Review Committee and the SUNY Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation. The SUNY Transfer Review Committee and the SUNY Joint Committee will be dissolved. The Student Mobility Steering Committee shall make recommendations to the SUNY Provost on all matters

concerning the ability of students to transfer from one campus to another within SUNY as prescribed by SUNY Board of Trustees Policy.

At the time, the waiver process had not been articulated by the Board of Trustees; however, within the charge of the committee, it was authorized to consider campus appeals. For the complete MOU, go to [http://old.suny.edu/provost/academic\\_affairs/steeringcommittee.cfm](http://old.suny.edu/provost/academic_affairs/steeringcommittee.cfm)

This model of shared governance at the SUNY system level followed a SUNY best practice of shared governance. The State University of New York Board of Trustees, in December 1998, adopted Resolution 98-241 establishing a General Education Requirement for all baccalaureate degree candidates at the University's state-operated campuses. Both in conjunction with the Trustees' action and in response to requests from the Chancellor and senior campus leadership, the Provost appointed The Provost's Advisory Council on General Education (PACGE). Specifically structured to provide broad system representation, the task force included campus presidents, chief academic officers, faculty and students, and was drawn from all sectors of the system.

PACGE's charge was very similar to the charge of the original Joint Committee on Transfer and Articulation. PACGE's responsibility was to:

- consult with the campuses to identify their concerns in the implementation of the Trustees' Resolution;
- interpret both the letter and the spirit of the Trustees' Resolution;
- develop guidelines to assist campuses as they adapt their General Education programs to the Trustees' resolution in ways consistent with campus and program missions; and
- identify resources that will be needed to implement the Trustees' resolution and suggest ways that these may be developed and allocated.

For more information on PACGE, go to [http://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc\\_id=188](http://www.suny.edu/sunypp/documents.cfm?doc_id=188)

In the same way that the JCTA was disbanded and reformed into the Student Mobility Steering Committee, PACGE was eventually disbanded as the implementation of the general education became more complete, and the Advisory Council on General Education (ACGE) was formed. ACGE was composed predominantly of teaching faculty appointed by the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and the University Faculty Senate. It also included campus-based academic and professional staff, with support provided by the Provost's Office. ACGE's charge included examining and explicating the learning outcomes in content areas, evaluating the effect of SUNY-GER on transfer, studying competency levels of entering students, and the review of proposed SUNY-GER courses, if necessary.

Specifically, according to the Memorandum to Presidents, dated January 3, 2003, concerning an Update on the State University General Education Requirement,

Each campus shall report to the Provost all changes to its list of SUNY-GER offerings as they are approved locally, providing for each addition the relevant identification information and catalog description. . . Following the approval of campus-adopted guidelines . . . , the Provost's Office will operate with the presumption that locally approved SUNY-GER offerings conform to campus and System guidelines. Should questions arise about a particular course submission, the Provost will refer the matter to ACGE, which may request additional information from the campus General Education curriculum committee. The role of ACGE shall be to mediate these issues and render the decision on the acceptability of the course in meeting SUNY General Education learning outcomes as defined by Trustees Resolution 98-241.

For the complete MTP, go to <http://old.suny.edu/provost/MTP/mtp03-1.pdf>