



Faculty Council of Community Colleges
Executive Committee Resolution #EC1: 2012-2013
Passed Unanimously on July 31, 2013

SUNY Board Resolution on SUNY Seamless Transfer Requirements
And
A.A.S. and A.O.S Degrees

Whereas, A.A.S. and A.O.S. degrees are neither intended nor designed as transfer degrees, as per NYSED's Comprehensive Guidance Document for Program Registration and SUNY's Handbook for the Submission of Undergraduate Academic Programs;

and

Whereas, the SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution adopted in December 2012 entitled "SUNY Seamless Transfer Requirements" does not reference A.A.S. or A.O.S. degrees;

and

Whereas, the Memorandum to Presidents dated June 13, 2013, offering policy and guidance on the implementation of the SUNY Seamless Transfer Requirements clearly states that "A.A.S. degree programs are intended to prepare students for immediate employment rather than transfer" and discusses implementation of the resolution in terms of A.A., A.S., and baccalaureate degrees only;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges concurs with the Student Mobility Committee's Recommendations to the Provost, dated April 11, 2013, specifically,

RECOMMENDATION: The committee unanimously agreed that the more important criterion in this case is the two years of full-time study for an applicable Associate's degree, and four years full-time study for a Bachelor's.

RECOMMENDATION: The committee unanimously believes that it is inappropriate to include any degree other than those designed for transfer, the A.A. and A.S., in a Board Resolution and subsequent MTP that includes "Seamless Transfer" in their title. Although some students may transfer upon the completion of an A.A.S. (or even an A.O.S.) program, such programs have been created for other purposes, such as ready employment, and they should not be considered as "transfer degrees."

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges strongly recommends that the SUNY Provost's Office clearly articulate to campuses that the A.A.S. and A.O.S. degrees are

not subject to the stipulated regulations in the Policy and Guidance: Seamless Transfer Requirements, Memorandum to Presidents, dated June 13, 2013, so as to assist campuses in their efforts to fully implement the Seamless Transfer Requirements resolution and help them avoid any undue confusion.

Background Statement:

In the SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution of December 2012 entitled SUNY Seamless Transfer Requirements, Resolved Clause #7 states:

Associate degree programs shall generally require no more than 64 credits that can normally be completed within two years of full-time study or the equivalent, and bachelor's degree programs shall require no more than 126 credits that can normally be completed within four years of full-time study or the equivalent, unless there is a compelling justification.

Although the rest of the resolution specifically refers to A.A. and A.S. degrees (transfer degrees), this clause refers to the more general associate degrees. Given the context of the entire resolution, it must be assumed that the SUNY trustees intended this clause to also refer to the A.A. and A.S. degrees; however, because of the ambiguity of the language of the above clause, there has been some confusion as to whether or not A.A.S. and A.O.S. degrees are subject to the 64-credit cap. The Memorandum to Presidents outlining implementation guidelines for the resolution does not resolve this confusion. This resolution is asking for a clear statement from SUNY to indicate that the referenced SUNY Board resolution does not apply to non-transfer degrees, specifically, that the A.A.S. and the A.O.S. degrees are not subject to the 64-credit cap.