



Resolution Urging Implementation within Open SUNY of Principles of Academic Freedom
and Faculty Control of Curriculum

FCCC Resolution #G2 2012-2013
Unanimously Passed on March 23, 2013

WHEREAS the Faculty Council of Community Colleges endorses the call for SUNY to establish a policy to facilitate and support growth in online instruction and resources under the name *Open SUNY*, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges calls on the State University of New York to ensure that the policies and procedures that inform Open SUNY conform to the general principles expressed by the AAUP in their *Statement on Distance Education*, which assert: "As with all other curricular matters, the faculty should have primary responsibility for determining the policies and practices of the institution in regard to distance education. The rules governing distance education and its technologies should be approved by vote of the faculty concerned or of a representative faculty body, officially adopted by the appropriate authority, and published and distributed to all concerned"; and be it further

RESOLVED that also in accord with the AAUP *Statement*, "distance-education courses (or modifications thereto) shall comply with all of the standard practices, procedures, and criteria which have been established for traditional [face-to-face] courses, including but not limited to faculty involvement at the level of course development and approval, selection of qualified faculty to teach the course, pedagogical determinations about appropriate class size, and oversight of all final course offerings by the appropriate faculty committee to ensure conformity with previously established traditions of course quality and relevance to programs," and be it further

RESOLVED that with respect to academic freedom, (1) that faculty members engaged in Open SUNY "shall have academic freedom as teachers and researchers in full accordance with the provisions of the 1940 [Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#), including 'freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject' and 'full freedom in research and in the publication of the results'; (2) that methods of presentation and selection of course materials are to be under the control of the faculty member assigned to develop and/or teach the Open SUNY course; and (3) that

responsibility for the supervision and oversight of courses and programs remain with the local campus faculty and faculty governance, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Faculty Council of Community Colleges affirms the SUNY Board of Trustees policy on Copyright and Faculty Ownership of Intellectual Property:

“With respect to faculty materials used on the web for instruction, under the current SUNY policy, copyright ownership is treated no differently than faculty materials produced for the classroom,” and further that instruction offered through Open SUNY must comply with campus-based policies, procedures, and agreements with respect to intellectual property rights.