

Department of Biology
Resolution on General Education
12 April 2011

Whereas, the faculty of CUNY understands and appreciates the many obstacles faced by our students in obtaining their undergraduate degrees, and strongly supports exploring improved means of expediting degree completion as long as those means are compatible with CUNY's high academic standards; and

Whereas, general education is an academic and curricular matter but issues of transfer are an operational matter that needs to be addressed independently of issues related to general education; and

Whereas, any measures to expedite degree completion must be based on careful study of the relevant data and must be designed and implemented in a manner that conforms to the principles of faculty governance; and

Whereas, the current process and timetable for developing a general education framework for CUNY, now under consideration by the Board of Trustees, calls for radical and wide-ranging changes to general education curricula in a very short period of time; and

Whereas, the proposed framework, by restricting individual campuses' ability to design and implement rigorous general education curricula, significantly weakens CUNY's commitment to high academic standards;

The Biology Department of Brooklyn College urges the Board of Trustees to defer action on the current proposed framework and undertake to address the problems of degree completion and course transfer through a careful and consultative process that is better suited to the complexity of the issues, and in keeping with the principles of faculty governance.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Lipke
Chairperson