

From: CUNY Association of Scholars [CUNYAS@earthlink.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 3:28 PM
To: Sandi Cooper
Subject: CUNY Pathways Proposal: Please Vote "No"

Dear Professor Cooper,

The following e-letter was just sent to each voting CUNY trustee.

Best regards,

Dorothy Lang

Dear Trustee _____:

As you know, the Office of Academic Affairs' proposal "Creating an Efficient Transfer System" recommends facilitating student transfers within the University by fundamentally changing CUNY's undergraduate curricula. The Board of Trustees' vote is scheduled for June 27. The CUNY Association of Scholars urges you to vote against this proposal because it would weaken academic standards and prevent CUNY faculty from developing curricula that best meet student needs on each campus.

The proposal, commonly called "Pathways," correctly identifies problems many students face when transferring from CUNY's community to senior colleges. Frequently, courses taken at one college don't meet requirements at another, so students must take more than 120 credits to earn their degrees. These additional credit requirements increase the time and expense of a CUNY degree and adversely affect retention and graduation rates.

"Pathways" proposes overhauling general education requirements throughout CUNY as the best way to facilitate transfers. Specifically, Brooklyn College's nationally-recognized Common Core and the demanding programs at Baruch, Hunter, and Lehman would be eliminated. General education requirements at the senior colleges would be restricted to a maximum of 42 credits, and faculty at all colleges would be highly limited in designing curricula for their own campuses. We are concerned that these changes would severely undermine academic standards and rigor, especially at the senior colleges.

Instead, more effective methods of facilitating transfers should be implemented. Improving transfer counseling, enhancing academic support services, and developing CUNY's online TIPPS transfer information service would provide the assistance transfer students need without dismantling general education curricula throughout the University.

We call upon you and your fellow Trustees to vote against the Pathways Proposal on June 27 and thereby assert the University's commitment to quality liberal arts education.

Yours truly,

Dorothy Lang
Chairperson, CUNY Association of Scholars

CUNY Association of Scholars
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The CUNY Association of Scholars is an affiliate of the National Association of Scholars and a chapter of the NY Association of Scholars.