

November 16, 2011

Mr. Robert Kreiser  
Associate Secretary  
Department of Academic Freedom, Tenure, & Governance  
American Association of University Professors  
1133 Nineteenth St., NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Bob:

We write – Barbara as president of the Professional Staff Congress and Sandi as chair of the University Faculty Senate – to urge the AAUP to initiate an investigation of the City University of New York.

On June 17, 2011 the Board of Trustees, urged by the Chancellor's office, passed a complex resolution called "Pathways" to create, it claimed, a smooth transfer system for students.

The resolution passed despite a variety of faculty statements and resolutions urging modifications to avoid undermining general education and undercutting **elected** faculty control of curricula, thereby violating the charters of the college senates and the University Faculty Senate as well as Board of Trustees bylaws.

The PSC is firmly committed to the principle of shared governance and maintaining the academic character of the University. The PSC believes that the Pathways resolution violates both.

The process used by the Board to adopt Pathways did not acknowledge the principle of shared governance undermining the roles of the University Faculty Senate and campus governance bodies. Over the summer, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs consulted presidents and provosts to appoint faculty to a Steering Committee and to working committees to produce a model for general education capped at 30 credits (allowing senior colleges to add 12 credits of their own). They also appointed (not elected) faculty to develop courses that students in 9 majors would have to take to transfer and will appoint a committee to review whether the colleges' proposals to fit into this model are acceptable.

The rights of elected faculty committees have been ignored, despite the verbal promises to respect governance.

We request an AAUP investigation of the refusal of the Administration to respect governance by forcing faculty to select a small number of courses from a menu

which is not accepted anywhere else (i.e., mixing philosophy, religion and computer science in one category – with one course to be picked therefrom) and by interfering with the academic freedom of faculty to create their own educational packages.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bowen, President  
Professional Staff Congress/CUNY

Sandi E. Cooper, Chair  
University Faculty Senate  
City University of New York