

John Jay College

History Department

voted November 8, 2011

As faculty dedicated to CUNY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and the mission of “educating for justice,” we represent our students when we ask that the curriculum proposed by the Pathways initiative be rejected.

Whereas the problem of transfer facilitation can be addressed without the imposition of an ill judged General Education curriculum that shows a total disregard for best practices as defined by organizations such as the American Association of Colleges and Universities;

Whereas Pathways violates best practices by eliminating essential elements of a liberal arts education and producing a curriculum that lacks depth and breadth;

Whereas Pathways, by diminishing access to fundamental subjects within John Jay’s curriculum, irreparably damages our mission of “educating for justice.”

In a moment of new majors and new energy surrounding the liberal arts at this College, Pathways threatens our ability to attract and retain students and faculty, thus eroding our national reputation.

The CUNY charter places curriculum development within the purview of the faculty and strictly prohibits the solo drafting of curriculum by the administration. The Pathways initiative violates the legally defined and traditional rights of faculty governance over the curriculum.

Whereas the imposition of a curriculum by a board of trustees, so contrary to the national best practices of curricular reform and the CUNY charter, will make CUNY an obvious outlier in the national educational community;

In conclusion, Pathways ignores the broad set of skills and knowledge required for our students to function and compete in the 21st century. It discourages rigor and damages standards at the College and encourages students to pursue the path of least resistance.

Therefore, the Department of History rejects Pathways on pedagogical, social, legal, and moral grounds. We call for the Pathways Committee to be disbanded and a faculty elected group be named to address the problem of transfer facilitation.

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