

Call for the Repeal of Pathways and its Replacement by an Alternative

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED faculty and professional staff of the City University of New York, call for the repeal of the Pathways resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees and for the development of an alternative approach to facilitating student transfer.

- Despite months of diligent efforts to make Pathways work, faculty across the University have concluded that it is impossible to design a curriculum within the Pathways parameters without undermining the quality of education at CUNY.
- The need Pathways claims to address—to facilitate student transfer—is genuine and important, but it can be addressed without destroying years of faculty work on curriculum, violating the principles of shared governance and academic freedom, and mandating a general education program that devalues the CUNY degree.
- Far from assisting CUNY students, Pathways will disadvantage them. It underestimates CUNY students and shortchanges them both intellectually and professionally. Pathways fails to uphold academic integrity as defined by the faculty; it fails to achieve the goal of creating seamless transfer within CUNY, as it negates existing articulation agreements; and it marginalizes CUNY students by making transfer of credits outside of the CUNY system impossible in certain subject areas.

- The intellectual unsoundness of Pathways is a direct result of the manner in which it was imposed. The Pathways resolution was passed by the Board of Trustees in violation of its own Bylaws, and has been implemented through a process that continues to bypass every elected faculty body. The imposition of Pathways directly attacks shared governance and academic freedom, bedrock principles of a university.
- The CUNY central administration has refused to repeal Pathways despite an outpouring of opposition from elected faculty bodies such as the University Faculty Senate, college senates, academic discipline councils, academic departments and learned societies. While CUNY representatives have offered partial remedies for aspects of Pathways, its failures of conception and design are so fundamental that Pathways must be entirely rethought.

We therefore call on the Board of Trustees to repeal the “Pathways” resolution (“Creating an Efficient Transfer System”) at its next meeting – on April 30, 2012; and further

We call on the Board of Trustees and its representatives to initiate a new planning and implementation process to address the issue of student transfer. The process must conform to the University Bylaws, uphold the principles and practices of shared governance and academic freedom, and produce a curriculum worthy of CUNY’s mission to educate “the children of the people, the children of the whole people.”

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Please return signed petitions to your PSC chapter chair, or mail to: PSC, 61 Broadway, 15th floor, New York, NY 10006.

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