



The State University
of New York

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MEMORANDUM

To: SUNY Campus Chief Academic Officers
From: Elizabeth L. Bringsjord, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor
Subject: Seamless Transfer Implementation Update

I am so pleased to hear about the significant progress being made on the implementation of the SUNY Trustees' seamless transfer policy across the University. My thanks go out to you and your faculty for committing time, both over the summer and into this semester, to the review of programs.

I am writing today to address some of the questions and concerns we have received regarding the transfer paths—essential to seamless transfer in the major. In short, with advice from faculty governance and all of you, I am moving up our plans to review, refine and strengthen the transfer paths.

Before I detail the process for that review, I want to reiterate the purpose of the transfer paths. As I believe most of you know, the existing 38 transfer paths were developed with the input of over 400 faculty, from both state-operated campuses and community colleges. The paths represent general content descriptors that reflect campus requirements for the first two-years of study—content and skills necessary to ensure junior status after two years.

The paths vary by discipline, which is what we would expect. In some instances, the disciplinary faculty panels were quite prescriptive, listing specific courses students would need to take and identifying common course descriptors. In others, faculty identified general content areas or categories, leaving each campus with flexibility about the specific courses and sequencing needed to ensure that students mastered the desired content. These paths provide language that had been missing from SUNY's decades-long dialogue on University-wide seamless transfer; collectively, they represent one of our strongest tools for students and faculty advisors in preventing the far too frequent scenario of transfer students reaching their final semester only to discover they are ineligible for graduation because of a requirement missed early on.

The transfer paths which are posted online now are a direct result of collaboration among disciplinary faculty, finalized only after campus review. And while the paths were vetted, and then vetted again, we are hearing from the University Faculty Senate and the Faculty Council of Community Colleges and many of you that some faculty are now looking at these paths in detail for the first time and have identified areas where they believe the paths can be strengthened.

As a result, I am establishing an area within the SUNY Learning Commons for additional discussion on the transfer paths. The goal of this review is to build on the hard work already completed by faculty, where necessary. I expect that many of the paths may be fine in their

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current configuration while others will benefit from a refinement of language, an additional course or content description or perhaps removal of something deemed not necessary. This virtual space will provide documents for review as well as a threaded discussion area. This process will open a window within which advisory recommendations for revising the paths can be made. To that end, I am seeking your help, the help of your campus faculty governance leaders, and the assistance of your faculty within the path program areas.

I am asking that you each work with your respective campus governance leader to identify one faculty representative for each transfer path applicable to your campus. The designated faculty member will represent his/her faculty colleagues in the path review. Importantly, I would ask that you charge faculty representatives with keeping you, your campus faculty governance leader, and all faculty in the respective discipline apprised of progress. From among the group of faculty identified, we would like to identify one state-operated and one community college lead, in each discipline, who will assist Provost's Office staff with reviewing and synthesizing the recommendations of the group. As Chief Academic Officers are ultimately responsible for ensuring implementation of the Board policy, you will also have access to the Learning Commons space and be able to monitor progress.

The review period will begin in December, 2013 and end March 14, 2014. My office will work quickly to review recommendations coming from the disciplinary group and as appropriate update the paths accordingly. If no recommendations have been made by March 14, 2013, the paths as currently posted will stand. **Please work with your campus governance leader to complete the attached worksheet by no later than December 6, 2013 and return via e-mail to Dan Knox, Student Mobility Coordinator, at: daniel.knox@suny.edu.**

Note: To allow sufficient time for this review, I am extending the Seamless Transfer Requirements Program Status Inventory and waiver requests deadline from January 31, 2014 to May 1, 2014. The effective date for minor revisions to programs will also move from Fall, 2014 to no later than Fall, 2015; to align with the deadline for major revisions to programs. At the same time, I want to recognize that there are many other components of the resolution on which I know you have been working—including review of programs for which there is no transfer path. The Provost's Office stands ready to receive all or part of your inventory/waiver requests prior to the May deadline. I urge you to continue all work with due speed.

In the best interest of our students, we will continue to address challenges and questions as they come along; however, it is imperative that the expected outcomes of this policy, truly seamless transfer for SUNY students, drive our approach to doing so. **We remain on course for all revisions to be completed for students no later than those entering Fall 2015.**

Again, I thank all of you for your hard work and commitment to transfer student success. As always, please feel free to contact me or my staff with any questions or concerns you may have.

Copy: Campus Faculty Governance Leaders
Dr. Good, Trustee and President of the Faculty Council
Dr. Knuepfer, Trustee and President of the University Faculty Senate
Mr. Price, Trustee and President of the Student Assembly
Dr. Ehrenberg, Trustee and Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee
Chancellor Zimpher
Senior Vice Chancellor Duncan-Poitier