

Resolution: WEP Work Requirements

Whereas, starting in 1996, the City of New York began requiring CUNY students who receive public assistance to enroll in WEP and fulfill 20 hours of work per week in order to maintain their eligibility for public assistance; and

Whereas, these students are only permitted four semesters to complete their course work for graduation; and

Whereas, these students are not permitted to enroll as liberal-arts students, but are required to enroll in “occupational” programs; and

Whereas, the WEP requirement is an unfair treatment of this cohort of CUNY students; and

Whereas, the effect of these regulations has been to create an onerous burden for these students; and

Whereas, as a result of this program a large percentage of WEP students have dropped out of the University; and

Whereas, attendance in college and the successful completion of a degree would contribute to WEP students becoming economically independent more than does the twenty hours of unskilled and semi-skilled work now required by WEP; therefore, be it

Resolved that the PSC work with the new mayoral administration and the New York City Council to rescind these inhumane and counterproductive policies and allow attendance in the colleges to count toward fulfilling WEP work requirements, and be it further

Resolved that CUNY students who receive public assistance be treated in exactly the same manner as all other CUNY students.

From Hostos Community College
Passed: Delegate Assembly 6/14/01