

November 21, 2002

Resolution: Master Plan Amendment

Whereas the NY State Board of Regents will vote on Dec. 12 or 13 on whether to continue the CUNY Master Plan Amendment, which bars students with any remedial needs from admission to the university's bachelor's degree programs;

Whereas neither SUNY, nor the vast majority of the nations public colleges, has such an exclusionary admissions policy; and

Whereas it is unfair to deny CUNY's prospective students, who are often from poor families and are predominantly students of color, the same opportunities as students at SUNY and nationwide; and

Whereas data from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights indicate that the policy is disproportionately turning away qualified students of color from CUNY's bachelor degree programs; and

Whereas the CUNY Administration had failed to show that the tests used to bar students from the bachelor's degree programs predict success in CUNY courses sufficiently well to meet the customary standards of test validity; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the PSC-CUNY urge the Regents to direct CUNY to develop a bachelor's degree admissions policy that is not racially and ethnically discriminatory, as well as more flexible and valid; and be it further

Resolved, that the PSC-CUNY support the University Faculty Senate and the Friends of CUNY proposal to allow otherwise qualified freshman applicants with a remedial need in only one area to enroll in the bachelor's degree programs, with the students receiving all the necessary academic support and a year to erase the deficiency.