



To: SUNY University Faculty Senate
From: Undergraduate Academic Policies and Programs Committee
RE: Resolution on Contact Hours Policy for Applied Learning Experiences
Date: 189th Plenary, October 7-9, 2021
Location: Online
Resolution #: 189-04-1
Vote: For: 38 / Against: 1 / Abstain: 3

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS since 2015 the SUNY Board of Trustees has emphasized the importance of applied learning in the undergraduate educational program; and

WHEREAS the most recent Memorandum to Presidents from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs regarding the relationship of credit to contact hours for experiential learning is dated June 30, 1976; and

WHEREAS the 1976 SUNY Memorandum is outdated and does not reflect the actual credit/contact hour practices throughout SUNY, including the requirement for the student to satisfy clearly stated learning outcomes of college level learning; and

WHEREAS the 1976 SUNY Memorandum specifies that “When life or work experience is to be credited as a concurrent portion of an academic program design, as in an internship, one semester credit hour will be awarded for each 40-45 clock-hour week of supervised academic activity that provides the learning considered necessary to program study”; and

WHEREAS the definitions in New York State, Title 8, Chapter II §50.1(n) and (o) of the Regulations of the Commissioner indicate the **minimum** time requirements for awarding credit:

(n) “Credit means a unit of academic award applicable towards a degree offered by the institution.” (o) “Semester hour means a credit, point, or other unit granted for the satisfactory completion of a course which requires **at least** 15 hours (of 50 minutes each) of instruction and at least 30 hours of supplementary assignments, except as otherwise provided pursuant to section 52.2(c)(4) of this Subchapter. This basic measure shall be adjusted proportionately to translate the value of other academic calendars and formats of study in relation to the credit granted for study during the two semesters that comprise an academic year”;

WHEREAS questions and discrepancies have arisen on SUNY campuses regarding the appropriate number of credits to award for applied learning experiences when clock hours worked do not align with the time necessary to achieve stated learning outcomes;

RESOLUTION:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Faculty Senate recommends to the Chancellor that the SUNY Policy on the award of credit for Experiential Learning be amended to make it congruent with the current Commissioner’s and Federal Regulations and state, “When life or work experience is to be credited as a concurrent portion of an academic program design, as in an internship, one semester credit hour will be awarded for **a minimum of 40 clock-hours of supervised academic activity** that provides the learning considered necessary to program study.”