



The Society for the Study of Social Problems
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October 28, 2013

Dr. Alexandra W. Logue
Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost
The City University of New York
205 East 42nd Street, 18th floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Executive Vice Chancellor Logue:

Thank you very much for your detailed response to my letter, on behalf of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), expressing concerns about the manner in which *Pathways* was developed and implemented by your university. While I, and other members of the SSSP, may have some questions about whether *Pathways* is the best vehicle to “ensure smooth transfer” for CUNY students, the resolution and my cover letter focused on an issue that is not unique to Pathways and CUNY, and that is the appropriate and traditional role of faculty in curricular matters. A portion of your letter addresses the issue, but, unfortunately, fails to alleviate our concerns.

In your letter, you reference several committees consisting largely of faculty that were involved in the development of *Pathways*. Were these Senate committees? How were faculty selected to serve on these committees? To what degree, and how, were faculty governance bodies or organizations involved in the process? To what degree was this initiative faculty driven, as opposed to faculty simply working on various aspects of a plan conceived and implemented by your office and the Board? This is the issue that concerns us because taking away from the faculty control over the curriculum undermines faculty governance and inevitably the quality of the education that students receive. To say that the faculty are solely responsible for the curricular content begs the question, and that is, what role did faculty and especially faculty governance bodies play in creating the vessel (*Pathways*) into which that content is poured? That matters a great deal.

At SSSP, we still worry that CUNY’s current embrace of *Pathways* reflects national pressures to prioritize curbing costs without considering the real cause of the problem: the steady disinvestment in higher education by states and localities. Unaddressed, an austerity curriculum, imposed without CUN Y’s Faculty Senate, will not resolve this problem or serve students’ interests, and that continues to concern us. But, again, thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
Executive Officer, SSSP

Cc: Dr. William Kelly, Interim Chancellor
Dr. Julia Wrigley, Associate University Provost