

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

LYNN M. MARINELLI
LEGISLATOR - 11th DISTRICT



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1998 DEC 21 P 3:15

TO: WILLIAM MARIANI, President
Erie Community College

FROM: LYNN M. MARINELLI, Legislator *LM*

DATE: December 16, 1998

RE: Fiscal and Budgetary Impacts of the SUNY Mandated General
Education - Liberal Arts Thirty-two (32) Hours of Core Curriculum

The recently announced SUNY Board of Trustees' mandate to upgrade 32 credit hours required of general education course offerings will most likely have a fiscal impact affecting the college's 1999-2000 academic year budget preparation and submittal items including performance indicators.

An analysis of the budgetary repercussions of the SUNY core curriculum will probably reveal changes that will affect course offerings, liberal arts faculty staffing, library resources allocation, catalog revisions, and out-of-classroom support and tutorial services. Alterations in academic programming and master schedule new course exhibits will require staff to consider and deal with the fiscal implications of academic programming as part of 1999-2000 budget building and related institutional resources management.

Analysis of general education course offering reconfigurations could impact dramatically current patterns of financial aid, individual campus course offerings, student progress leading toward graduation, and student smooth transfer to four-year institutions.

One potential negative result of the new academic mandates that will filter down to SUNY sponsored community colleges will be their repercussions on student financial aid eligibility as students prepare to transfer to SUNY four-year institutions. Students could end up using some of their financial aid eligibility in fulfilling the new requirements that they will need to complete their four-year degree goals. This potentiality is extremely important to analyze because of the high volume of college course work dedicated to remedial work.

The short time frame allowed for preparation and implementation of the curriculum mandates will further necessitate timely staff assessment of the academic and related changes that may be required in the building and submittal of the 1999-2000 college budget. Any focal impact of the SUNY general education standards course

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requirements should be clearly identified in the proposed budget and exhibited in its measurable performance indicators.

Future legislative deliberations on the 1999-2000 academic year budget will focus on this very important attempt by the SUNY Board of Trustees to raise general education for the purpose of enhancing student core knowledge and preparing SUNY graduates "to meet the challenges and opportunities of a lifetime."

Please keep me informed of the progress and results of the staff's coordinated and collaborative efforts in meeting this important challenge and enhancement opportunity.

Copy to: (w/att)
Kenneth Kruly, Budget Director
Community Enrichment Committee