Proposal Recognizing American Sign Language (ASL) as an option in the General Education foreign language category for all students

Whereas, the Provost of the State University of New York (SUNY) has directed that beginning in Fall 2017 American Sign Language courses approved in the SUNY General Education (SUNY-GER) category of foreign language be recognized as such by SUNY units for all students; and

Whereas the Provost has directed SUNY units to remove the stipulation that American Sign Language can only be used in the general education foreign language category by students in teacher education certification programs or in programs leading to careers where there is likely to be significant contact with the hearing impaired; and

Whereas, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego is bound to abide by the above directives; and

Whereas, multiple State University of New York (SUNY) units currently have American Sign Language courses approved in the SUNY General Education foreign language category; and

Whereas, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego currently has two American Sign Language courses approved in the SUNY General Education foreign language category, ASL 101 and ASL 102; and

Whereas, both ASL 101 and ASL 102 have been approved since 2002 as enabling students to meet the SUNY-GER foreign language learning outcomes; and

Whereas, the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego has a local general education foreign language requirement asking that students hold 102-level proficiency in the target language;

Therefore, be it resolved that the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego

--recognizes that this is an external mandate and that there is disagreement about whether ASL is a foreign cultural experience; and

--now recognizes American Sign Language in the general education foreign language category for all students, regardless of major; and

--removes the stipulation that American Sign Language can only be used in the general education foreign language category by students in teacher education programs or by students in programs leading to careers where there is likely to be significant contact with the hearing-impaired; and

--deems that all SUNY-GER approved American Sign Language courses, including those approved courses taken prior to Fall 2017, may be used toward fulfilling the State University of New York at Oswego general education 102-level foreign language requirement.

Resolution passed 24 for, 8 against, 1 abstention on October 9, 2017