



CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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RESOLUTION

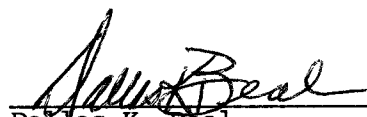
concerning

WAIVER OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXTENSION FEE FOR STUDENTS IN THE OPEN DOOR TO PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM AT SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

January 16, 1987

- WHEREAS, The Open Door to Professional Opportunity Program at Southern Connecticut State University is threatened with termination because of the withdrawal of funding by the State Department of Human Resources as of the end of the Fall 1986 semester, and
- WHEREAS, The waiving of Educational Extension Program credit hour fees may enable the continuation of the program through the Spring 1987 semester, a situation which the School of Social Work staff believes provides a greater potential for ultimate retention of students than would a mid-year termination of the program, be it
- RESOLVED, That, for the Spring 1987 semester only, Educational Extension Program credit hour fees shall be waived for students who were enrolled in the Open Door to Professional Opportunity Program at Southern Connecticut State University during the Fall 1986 semester and wish to continue to be enrolled in said program.

A Certified True Copy:


Dallas K. Beal
President

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12/05



A unit of The Connecticut State University
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

501 Crescent Street • New Haven, Connecticut 06515

Office of the Vice President
For Administrative Affairs
Telephone: (203) 397-4585

December 3, 1986

*Approved
Please draft
see how
meeting at
12/3/86
AMS*

DEC 04 1986

THE CONNECTICUT
STATE UNIVERSITY

TO: Antoinette M. Bascetta
Vice President for Finance and Management
The Connecticut State University

FROM: Mark Sullivan *MS*
Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Following our conversation last evening, I am enclosing a clean copy of the proposal from the School of Social Work. To summarize briefly our request:

1. We would like to continue the program at least through the end of this academic year to ensure that those students currently enrolled in that program will not drop out in January. If we could secure permission to extend an Extension Fund fee waiver for these students, I'm confident that all students currently enrolled will be able to continue.
2. Dean Baskind and Professor Dworkin, the project coordinator, will continue to press our case with Department of Human Resources Commissioner Harris to use unspent program resources beyond the end of the calendar year. Apparently, approximately \$4,000 of unspent resources is available. If permission is granted by DHR to use these unobligated funds, such funds could be used to continue providing grants for non-instructional costs (books, supplies, child care costs, transportation and meals).

I am trying to reach Dean Baskind to review the selection criteria for students currently enrolled in the program. I suspect most of the enrollees are low income wage earners who could continue in the program without compensation but compensation certainly serves as a powerful incentive to maintain their interest in completing the program.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and please call if you have any further questions.

MS:pb

PROGRAM:
OPEN DOOR TO PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY

I. Background

The Open Door to Professional Opportunity Program began in 1982 and has continued without interruption through the 1986 Fall academic semester. It is a special program within the Southern Connecticut State University's School of Social Work. Funding for this program was provided on an annual basis by the State Department of Human Resources. The University has been notified that funding for this program will no longer continue after the Fall semester, 1986. This curtailment is due to Federal funding cutbacks, not based on the merit and success of this program.

II. Program Description

The basic purposes of this program are twofold:

- a. to provide education and career opportunities in social work for a select group of employed minority older students who would not otherwise be able to attend a college or university,
- b. to enhance the quality of social services to low income individuals, families and communities in need of social services.

This program allows for up to fifteen minority, employed human service providers to attend college part-time while working full-time toward a professional degree (BSW) in Social Work. Students may take up to two courses per semester. An advisory council exists to establish guidelines for recruitment and retention consistent with existing University and School accreditation standards. Participants are eligible for full tuition (up to two courses per semester including summer sessions), books and supplies, and a small stipend to defray such costs as child care, transportation and meals. The University, based on released time of a full-time faculty member, provides individualized advisement/counseling to each student selected for the program. The faculty member also provides overall administration and coordination of all aspects of the Open Door Program, including on-going monitoring, evaluating and accounting.

Because of the special needs and circumstances of each of the students, a major component of this program is an on-going effort to mainstream each student into the life of the University, as well as to provide essential ombudsmen services to ensure the students' full participation in the University's social, cultural and academic offerings.

These program components have been integral to the success of the Open Door Program from its inception and are based upon the fact that retention rates among older, minority students within four year academic institutions are below 20% and that special services are essential to ensure higher retention rates among this population.

III. Current Status

At the present time, fourteen students are enrolled in the Open Door Program. Attached is a status report showing the academic progress of each student through the 1986 Fall academic semester.

Since its inception, 14 of 24 students who started in the program have continued. Half of the remaining 10 students withdrew from the program due to personal or family circumstances; the other 5 left for reasons which could be attributed to "difficulties related to academic work." In general, the retention rate in this program (60%) is significantly higher than retention rates among minority students enrolled in post-secondary educational institutions throughout the United States.

It is important to mention that the students presently enrolled in this program are strongly motivated and committed to careers in social work. Being older students and well established in the community, their continuation in this program represents a unique opportunity to achieve competence as a practicing professional while remaining indigenous leaders within their own communities.

IV. Relationship to the Broader University

This program, already considered a successful model throughout the state, has potential benefits not only to the participants themselves but to the larger University. Within the School of Social Work, for example, the Open Door Program represents 80% of the total minority enrollment among BSW students. On a broader scale, the number of minority students in this program represents a significant number of minority students enrolled in existing professional programs. On a long range basis, this program can serve as an effective model for the University in its efforts to increase minority participation during the next several years. Finally, it represents a special opportunity to contribute knowledge and experience within higher education regarding those factors which contribute to the successful retention rates among minority students.

V. Cost

Based on the previous four years, the scholarship costs to maintain the present level of activity is approximately \$10,000 per year. This will allow for twelve students to continue their studies on a part-time basis while maintaining full-time employment. The University will continue to provide needed faculty support services on a release time basis.

Current Status Report

<u>Student</u>	<u>*Number of Credits Earned</u>	<u>Number of Social Work Credits Earned</u>	<u>Number of University Requirements Earned</u>
1	39	12	27
2	21	12	9
3	27	6	21
4	12	6	6
5	60	15	45
6	24	6	18
7	36	9	27
8	21	12	9
9	35	9	26
10	24	6	18
11	15	6	9
12	64	15	39
13	6	0	6
14	6	0	6

*It is assumed that each student will successfully complete course work for the present semester.