College Academic Standards Committee

Proposal to Change the 30 Credit Minimum for Certificate Programs

D- R- A- F- T (3/7/18)

Whereas a certificate is a credential issued by an institution in recognition of a curriculum that usually represents a smaller domain of knowledge than established degrees, and

Whereas credit bearing certificates must be approved by SUNY and registered with the State Education Department, and

Whereas these certificate programs typically contain fewer credits than a degree program, and all credits must be applicable toward a degree program at the issuing institution, and

Whereas there are no SUNY or State Education requirements that impose minimum or maximum credit limits for certificate programs, and

Whereas the minimum credit count for certificate programs at Suffolk County Community College has historically been thirty (30), and

Whereas contemporary curriculum design has evolved to include certificate programs of varying credit length which positively contribute to degree completion agendas, and

Whereas certificate programs of fewer than 30 credits is a common practice among SUNY community colleges, and

Whereas maintaining a 30 credit minimum restricts freedom in the development of academic programs that would benefit students’ myriad academic plans

Whereas through our current curriculum and governance practices, the College has initiated and approved programs with fewer than 30 credits, and

Whereas our current certificate graduation requirement stating a 30 credit minimum is in need of review and revision, be it therefore

Resolved that catalog language (p. 69) referencing certificate programs be changed to read:

“Candidates for the certificate must complete all curriculum requirements, in which at least half of the coursework is resident credit hours offered by SCCC, with a cumulative grade point average of not less than 2.0, both cumulatively and in their major field of study.”