

TO: SUNY Cortland Administration
FROM: Graduate Faculty Executive Committee
RE: Alteration to the Instructional Delivery Policy
DATE: February 28, 2022
LOCATION: Cortland, NY

Rationale:

WHEREAS the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee (GFEC) recognizes and commends the purpose of the [Instructional Delivery Policy](#) (Section 220.02-Responsibility of Faculty-Instructional Delivery Policy) which is to support traditional face-to-face instruction, which is central to undergraduate courses and campus life at SUNY Cortland, this policy creates problems for online graduate programs and courses;

WHEREAS in the last few years several departments have moved graduate programs online, requiring programs and faculty to teach online to serve the students in those graduate programs. It has been brought to the GFEC's attention that this is creating problems for those departments regarding scheduling of classes, assignment of faculty, and thus potentially impacting the quality of the courses delivered. Some departments are not able to comply with policy as written due to the number of online graduate courses needed each semester or are only in compliance due to faculty overloads;

WHEREAS the graduate faculty "shall be responsible for instructional programs" the GFEC believes it, and all faculty with graduate status, are obligated to ensure that students in graduate programs receive the best possible education from the best possible faculty and the GFEC feels that the current policy inhibits that obligation;

WHEREAS the growth of current online graduate programs and courses and the creation of future ones may be inhibited by the current policy; and

WHEREAS given these listed concerns and per the SUNY Cortland Handbook, which charges the GFEC to "[c]onsider matters of general policy and practice affecting graduate affairs and programs, formulate recommendations, and forward such recommendations to the appropriate academic departments and/or member of the university administration," the GFEC sent a memo to the Provost requesting a revision to the policy to exempt departments with online graduate programs; and

WHEREAS this request was denied, stating that "[w]ith the permission of the dean and the provost, exceptions can be made to this policy for departments who have no undergraduate majors and high enrollment in their online graduate programs." However, as written, the current policy only allows for exceptions for faculty on phased retirements and there is only one department on campus with no undergraduate majors.

Resolution:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SUNY Cortland Faculty Senate supports the request of the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee and requests that the Instructional Delivery Policy be revised to exempt departments with online graduate programs.