

**UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

Introduced by: Undergraduate Academic Council

Date: April 24, 2008

**UUNI 399 UNIVERSITY PEER EDUCATORS COURSE**

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the attached proposal for the creation of UUNI 399 University Peer Educators course be approved by the University Senate.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the Interim President George M. Philip for approval.
3. That the proposal become effective for students admitted to the University for Fall 2008.

**Rationale:**

The University currently offers several courses that allow students to earn credit as they gain knowledge and experience working with other students in a variety of settings. Several courses in the School of Education's Counseling Psychology Department are designed for resident assistants and peer counselors. UUNI 499 "University Tutors" is operated by the Office of Academic Support Services.

However, there is a need for a more general course that can offer students the opportunity to serve as peer educators in other academic settings, including serving as undergraduate teaching assistants in courses or as peer advisors. Recent experience with peer mentors who served as undergraduate teaching assistants in this course, as well as the documented value of peers in much of the FYE literature, this course would provide another way to enrich the academic experience of undergraduate students – the peer educator as well as the student with whom the peer is interacting.

**This proposal was submitted by:**

**Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education  
Office of the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management**

**Proposed Course: UUNI 399 University Peer Educators**

a. **Credits:** 1-3 credits

- b. **Bulletin Description:** Peer educators are students who have been selected and trained to offer peer services to other students in an academic setting. Roles of peer educators may include service as undergraduate teaching assistants, peer academic advisors, or other paraprofessional roles in academic and support services. Students must work a minimum of 30 hours in a semester for each credit. The course also must include regular meetings with a full time faculty member and discussion group of other peer educators. This course will also include readings and written assignments. To be eligible to enroll, students must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and have earned at least 24 credits at the time they enroll in the course. Academic departments and administrative units may propose peer education opportunities. The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education is responsible for overseeing all instances of UUNI 399. This course may be repeated for up to six credits.
- c. **Learning Outcomes:** Through this class, students will:
- Participate in a paraprofessional academic experience in a University. This experience may include teaching and facilitating class discussion, academic advisement, tutoring or other activity.
  - Serve as a role model to new students and gain leadership experience.
  - Acquire practice in preparing a lesson plan or in developing plans for programs supporting University goals.
  - Practice and receive feedback on their communication skills.
  - Develop and pursue a research question related to the peer education setting.
  - Prepare a report or paper on their findings.
  - Learn how to use Blackboard or other instructional technology.
  - Receive individual assistance and support from a faculty member.
- d. **Syllabus:** The requirements will vary, but all courses will include both a practical and an academic component (paper, presentation, participation in discussion of readings, etc.)