



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

90th Session, 2022-2023

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REPRIORITIZING ENROLLMENT APPOINTMENTS FOR PATH TO INDEPENDENCE STUDENTS

Resolution Number: 88

Authored By: Senator Galvez and Zheleznyakova

Sponsored By: 2022-2023 Student Government Assembly

Whereas, Path to Independence (P2I) is an inclusive, two-year, non-degree certificate program established in 2013 offering a college experience to students with intellectual disabilities;

Whereas, The non-degree certificate program offers participants two years in college, with access to the same classes as other students;

Whereas, Each student and their invited guests participate in Person Centered Planning (PCP) each spring. The plan determines the level and direction of academic involvement;

Whereas, P2I staff helps students determine their career development and employment goals and factor this into consideration with academic planning each semester;

Whereas, according to the University's Admissions & Records website, "Registering for classes is based upon your standing at the University and your last name with enrollment appointments being randomly assigned within each standing level.";

Whereas, priority registration includes student veterans, student athletes, and the members of the Honors College;

Whereas, enrollment appointments follow the class standings in such order: Graduate students, Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, Freshmen;

Whereas, last priority is given to students that only qualify for open enrollment, which

includes non-degree seeking students, Graduate Specials, and others;

Whereas, according to the University's Admissions & Records office, the registration priorities are as follows:

- Student veterans, Honors College Students, Student Athletes
- Graduate Students
- Seniors
- Juniors
- Sophomores
- Freshmen
- Open Enrollment: Non-Degree Seeking Students, Graduate Specials;

Whereas, Path to Independence students are included within the category of Non-Degree Seeking students, giving them last priority to enroll:

Whereas, P2I students find it extremely difficult to enroll in classes that they actually want to pursue due to the priority constraint;

Whereas, the following is an account of a student (name redacted), provided by Director of P2I, Jessica Keefhaver:

“[Student] entered our program during the 2021 Fall Semester (graduation date of Spring 2023) ... This student consistently listed that they were interested in graphic design opportunities. P2I staff ensured that this student did have access to classes that were related to graphic design, but we were unable to get into all of their desired graphic design classes—specifically GRC 116 – Intro to Digital Art & Design. This course is only offered in the Fall and the student needed to take a few prerequisite classes before having the chance to take GRC 116. The student was put on the waitlist for GRC 116 for the first two weeks of the Fall 2022 semester. The student attended each class as if they were enrolled for the first two weeks. The student was hopeful that they would get into the class. In some situations, professors may make exceptions and increase the class size. Other times, UNR students may

drop a class which may create space for P2I students on the waitlist. However, this did not happen this semester. The professor had to communicate to the Academic Coordinator and the P2I student about the final classroom decision and let us know that there was not enough room for another student in the class. This student will graduate in the Spring of 2023 without the refined graphic design skills they were hoping for.”;

Whereas, the following is another account of a student (name redacted), provided by Keefhaver:

“[Student] entered our program during the 2020 Fall semester (with a graduation date of Spring 2022.) P2I staff helps students determine their career development and employment goals and factor this into consideration with academic planning. This student consistently listed that they “want to get a job where they can take pictures” as an employment goal during their time with P2I. Throughout their four semesters, the student tried unsuccessfully to get into ART: Digital Photography. The student was unable to develop any photography skills during their time with P2I. P2I staff is still in touch with this graduated student to this day. The student still wants to explore photography resources in the community to develop necessary skills but finds it difficult with funding, resources, time, etc.”;

Whereas, Keefhaver has expressed that having P2I enrollment concurrent with freshmen enrollment would make a monumental difference to the education of P2I students;

Be it resolved that, this body supports that enrollment appointments be reprioritized to include Path to Independence with freshman registration;

Be it further resolved that, this resolution be sent to the following individuals;

- Brian Sandoval, President of the University of Nevada, Reno
- Jeff Thompson, Executive Vice President and Provost
- Donald Easton-Brooks, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development
- Jessica Keefhaver, Director for Path to Independence
- Shannon Ellis, Vice President for Student Services
- Dionne Stanfill, ASUN President

Adopted in Senate on February 8th, 2023

Attest:

Wyatt Layland, Senate Secretary

Andrew Thompson, Speaker of the Senate