

TO: SUNY Cortland Faculty Senate
FROM: Education Policy Committee
DATE: October 16, 2024
RE: Addition of Basic Needs Statement to course syllabi

Origin

Earlier in the year, SUNY made a strong recommendation that all campuses included a Basic Needs statement on course syllabi. On September 13, 2024 the Provost asked the Education Policy Committee (EPC) to review the Cortland Cupboard's current statement and discuss the addition of a basic needs statement to all course syllabi as a recommended policy.

Rationale

The purpose is to increase awareness about the Cortland Cupboard campus wide and promote the well-being of SUNY Cortland students. The Cortland Cupboard's Mission Statement provides the rationale for this proposal.

Cortland Cupboard's Mission Statement

Address food insecurity of SUNY Cortland students in need by providing them with food items and personal care products in a respectful and private manner at no cost, thereby promoting their well-being and helping them pursue academic excellence.

Conclusion

The EPC has voted in favor of a recommended policy that department chairs and faculty members add the Cortland Cupboard's Basic Needs Statement to the course syllabi. This is a recommended policy, thus leaving application up to individual departments and faculty. The Cortland Cupboard's Basic Needs Statement reads as follows:

Resources are available for any SUNY Cortland student who has difficulty affording groceries or who lacks a safe and stable living environment, all of which can hurt their performance in this course. Please visit cortland.edu/cupboard for more information.