

Request for Intervention to Resolve Issue of Denial of Transfer Credits

Dear Interim President Muyskens and Interim Provost Wrigley,

In previous meetings with you we have raised the issue of international transfer credits being arbitrarily denied. While we recognize that each program at the GC is entitled to set its own policies with regard to transfer credits, we believe – and we hope you agree – that within each program these policies must be consistent and non-discriminatory (applied equally to all similarly situated students and to credits from similarly situated universities), and must be clearly communicated to all students in advance of their acceptance into the program. Any deviation from these standards of fairness increases the likelihood that the GC will face legal action and bad publicity.

We urgently request that you intervene to promote a favorable resolution for all students currently appealing the denial of transfer credits, including Sharanya Dutta, a second-year doctoral student in the English program and a member of our DSC Steering Committee who has been fighting the rejection of her masters' credits for well over a year now. Please see the attached summary of Sharanya's case. The GC's refusal to transfer valid masters level credits and the bureaucratic hoops that Sharanya has been forced to navigate to appeal that refusal are threatening her ability to complete the program in a timely way and causing her undue stress and anxiety.

Because we are eager to resolve this issue proactively for all students across the GC, we also ask you to immediately issue guidelines to all EOs to ensure that their programs are following consistent, fair, and transparent transfer credit acceptance policies. This is especially urgent at this time, given that prospective students are making decisions about their offers. If word spreads amongst admitted students about broken promises of transfer credit acceptance, prospective students may be discouraged from choosing the Graduate Center based on that information. However, it would be worse if new students were to accept their offers based on promises that their credits will be accepted, only to have those promises revoked and their appeals rejected.

Thank you for your swift attention to this matter.

Signed:

The Executive Committee of the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council:

Elizabeth Che, Co-Chair for Student Affairs

Raj Korpan, Co-Chair for Business

Roderick Hurley, Co-Chair for Communications

Jane Guskin, University Student Senate Delegate

Mary Jean McNamara, University Faculty Senate Liaison