

August 23, 2001

To: Members of the Faculty

From: Jim Swartz, Chair of the Curriculum Committee

Re: 2000-01 Annual Report of the Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee's responsibilities are two-fold: routine supervision and approval of all specific course changes, and discussion of and recommendations on curricular policy guidelines. Students are voting members of the committee. Student members were identified early and carried a full share of the ongoing work. Their participation was exemplary. In almost all cases, the Committee achieved a consensus.

The Curriculum Committee acted on a number of routine changes to courses including title changes, modifications of descriptions, additions or deletions of prerequisites, and approval of new courses. The program outlines and the course offerings for our Grinnell-in-Washington program and our Grinnell-in-London spring program were reviewed. These changes are reflected in the 2001-02 Academic Catalog.

The committee approved a proposal that American Studies be discontinued as a major, that the department be dissolved, and that a committee be established to create an interdisciplinary American Studies concentration. The committee that is working on the establishment of an American Studies Concentration is expected to make a proposal in the Fall of 2001.

The committee again discussed the issue of changing the title of the tutorial. The committee began with a review of the discussion of the issues presented at the Curriculum Committee meeting of February 15, 2000. No new issues were raised. The Registrar reported that over the past 2.5 years there have not been any calls from graduate schools, law schools, or employers asking us to explain the nature of the tutorial as listed on the transcript. The current student members of the Curriculum Committee repeated what the student on the committee last year said about being in favor of keeping the title of the tutorial as it is presently placed on the transcript. The committee decided to take no further action on this issue.

The processes and procedures that should be used when a concentration wishes to make changes to its program were discussed by the committee. Three questions were raised. The first question that was raised concerned how faculty are appointed to concentration committees. The Dean said that he would pass this question on to the Faculty Organizational Committee for consideration. A second question that was raised concerned what role the departments should play with respect to changes that take place within a concentration. The last question raised concerned the role of a division regarding changes in a concentration that do not impact the division itself. The committee will return to this discussion when it reviews the entire process for course approval

and catalog revision

The committee this year briefly reviewed the work done by this committee last year regarding the course proposal process and the catalog revision process. The committee continues to examine suggested changes in the process in order to save time for all members of the Grinnell College community involved in making course and catalog changes. The committee would like to produce next year a set of guidelines for departments and concentrations for course and catalog changes along with a revised course change proposal form.

Thanks once again to excellent work by Steve Langerud, Internship Coordinator, the Committee's internship review process continued to work well. During the academic year we had 30 students apply (30 were accepted and 10 opted not to do an internship) for internships involving 20 members of the faculty. There were 86 applications for summer 2001 internships. Of this group 16 students completed the process for receiving credit and the committee approved 12 applications for credit involving 12 faculty.

2000-01 Curriculum Committee members:

James Swartz	Pablo Silva	Josh Blue	George Carroll
Gerald Adams	Bob Grey	Kendra Young	
Mark Schneider	Elizabeth Dobbs	Joseph Nelson	