

August 9, 2002

To: Members of the Faculty  
From: Jim Swartz, Chair of the Curriculum Committee  
Re: 2001-02 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. These changes are reflected in the 2002-03 Academic Catalog.

In the fall the Executive Council passed a motion asking the Curriculum Committee to take a formal look at the MAP program and to make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council. Council was particularly interested in the Curriculum Committee's thorough study of the educational effect of MAP and once the Council received that report, the Council would look at the resource issues related to continuation of the MAP projects if the committee recommended continuing them.

With the help of Carol Trosset and Paula Smith the committee spent most of the academic year gathering data from students, faculty, and alumni regarding MAPs. The committee solicited, reviewed, and discussed an extensive set of relevant documents, including:

- Detailed statistics on participation levels (total faculty, total students, number of departments, divisional distribution, etc.),
- Descriptions of MAP models with examples of each model;
- Comprehensive summary report of evaluations submitted by 76 faculty members who directed one or more MAPs,
- Report by David Lopatto: "MAPs & NonMAPs in Summer 2001"
- Results of surveying current students and the alumni of the Class of '01 (both participants and non-participants in the MAP program),
- Summaries of Spring 2002 discussions in each academic division and on the Student Curriculum Council,
- April 2000 proposal from the Executive Council (endorsed by the faculty) to launch the MAP experiment; and
- October 1998 FFE Proposal on Mentored Independent Learning, with a focus on facilitating student achievement through MAPs.

Through the year, the committee called to the attention of the faculty the fact that the committee was posting on the web a set of MAP assessment documents and the minutes of our committee's MAP discussions. The committee also facilitated open discussions in which students and faculty contributed ideas and views to this process. The committee heard from a broad group of current students and faculty, as well as 90 members of the Class of 2001.

At the end of this process, the committee reached the following conclusion:

**Mentored Advanced Projects should become a regular part of the Grinnell College curriculum.**

It became clear from assessment that the original definition of MAP, endorsed at the beginning of the trial period, needed to be refined and updated to reinforce what is successful about the program.

#### **Proposed New Definition of MAP**

**A Mentored Advanced Project is an approved course of faculty-directed scholarly or creative work by highly qualified upper-level students that is the culmination of significant preparatory work and aims to produce results that merit presentation to the college community or the wider scholarly world.**

The Executive Council reviewed the report on MAP assessment we submitted. The Executive Council commended the Curriculum Committee for its excellent work, which has extended through most of the academic year. "We (the Executive Council) unanimously endorse their recommendation to make MAPs a regular part of the Grinnell College curriculum." On April 29, the Faculty approved the recommendation from the Curriculum Committee regarding MAPs.

The committee endorsed in principle a MIPs (Mentored Introductory Projects) proposal for three years beginning in the summer of 2002. During the experiment, faculty mentors would be provided with parallel compensation to those faculty mentors of MAPs. The committee approved the following catalog copy describing MIPs and a course description for a 299 summer course.

On a limited basis, some Grinnell College faculty members choose to offer an early experience with Directed Summer Research (299), often as part of a research team, to students who have completed the first year. Applications and guidelines are similar to those described above for Directed Research (399) and Independent Project (397).

299 Directed Summer Research

2 or 4 credits

Directed Summer Research at the 200 level is intended for selected students who have the appropriate academic preparation to benefit from an early research experience. Summer research may be pursued in Grinnell or on a field excursion, always under the direct and continuous supervision of a Grinnell faculty member. Summer research will involve a search of the

necessary literature, seminar or other formal discussion, and written reports, as well as laboratory or fieldwork. Offered summers only. Prerequisites: completion of first-year student status.

The committee this year reviewed the work done by this committee over the last two years regarding the course proposal process and the catalog revision process. A proposal outlining a set of guidelines for departments and concentrations for course and catalog changes was developed and forwarded to the Executive Council for review and approval. It is expected that the Executive Council will be able to act on this proposal early in the fall. The committee would like to produce next year 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 25 students were approved for internships (13 for GIL, 5 for GIW, and 7 for academic semesters). There were 96 students approved for internships for summer 2002. Of this group 14 students completed the process for receiving credit and the committee approved 12 applications for credit involving 10 faculty.

2001-02 Curriculum Committee members:

James Swartz	Pablo Silva	Gail Bonath	Jerry Lalonde
Gerald Adams	Bob Grey	Gabe Rosenberg	Kendra Young
Kenneth Yeung	Kimberly Smith		