

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE  
REPORT TO THE FACULTY  
MAY FACULTY MEETING  
(May 2, 1995)**

- I. Summary of progress on major issues:
  - A. New curriculum: status of GER course proposal evaluations and resource estimates.
  - B. Computing Proficiency requirements.
  - C. Update on Pilot Projects:
    - i) Music.
    - ii) Art/Art History.
  - D. EPC endorsement of the conversion of the Applied Science Program into the Department of Applied Science.
- II. Action Items:
  - A. Changes in continuance and probation requirements.
  - B. Proposed transcript insert.
- III. Curricular changes and/or new course approvals as of April 20, 1995.
  - A. Conversion of Comparative Literature concentration to Literary and Cultural Studies.
  - B. Various and sundry changes.

**I. Summary of progress on major issues**

**IA. *New curriculum: status of GER course proposal evaluations and resource estimates***

The target date for implementation of the new curriculum is Fall 1996. A summary of the first group of GER approved courses was given in Section III of the April report of the EPC. If a Department or Program wishes to appeal a negative decision we suggest that the following appeal process be followed: if the GER proposal was returned by the Working Group with requests for changes, please negotiate with the relevant Working Group to resolve these differences. If the two parties cannot come to an agreement, or if the course proposal was rejected outright, and the Department still wishes the course to be considered then a statement from the Working Group chair stating the reason(s) for rejection should be solicited by the Department. The Department should then respond in writing and forward the proposal, Working Group statement, and responses directly to the EPC.

The EPC must carry out a reliable resource estimate to insure that sufficient resources are available before certifying to the Faculty that the new curriculum can be implemented. An ad hoc committee (headed by Dean Macdonald) was formed to develop a detailed estimate based upon GER courses approved as of March 21, 1995. The estimate process includes the following:

- a) set a goal to have at least a 15-20% buffer in the number of seats available for a nominal class of 1290 students (i.e. 1484-1548 seats).
- b) do an initial estimate based upon the seats/year stated on the GER course proposal form and historical data on AP exemptions.
- c) do a conservative estimate using:
  - i) enrollment levels in lower-level courses only (this was not done for GER4B,C and for GER7 which include significant numbers of upper-level courses).
  - ii) an estimate of an "overlap" factor (i.e. how many students already take certain groups of courses for reasons other than satisfying requirements).

This ad hoc committee's report was then reviewed by a separate group. The results of these two groups' discussions formed the basis for a report by Dean Macdonald to the Dean's Advisory Council and the EPC. As a result of this initial round of estimates,

- 1] the EPC and the Dean's Office issued a request for more GER course proposals, especially in rubrics GER 4B,C and GER 7. These proposals should be submitted directly to the Chair of the relevant Working Group.
- 2] exemption criteria for all GERs, but especially for GER 6, must be clarified. Until this is done, a reliable estimate cannot be carried out and the EPC will not be able to certify that the new curriculum is ready to be put in place.
- 3] The Dean's Office has circulated a summary to all Chairs and Program Directors giving the

seats/year totals from the GER forms they submitted. Any changes or corrections to these numbers should be forwarded to the Dean's Office ASAP.

After this secondary round of proposal evaluation and processing described above, the EPC will forward a full written report to the Faculty. We anticipate this report will be available early next Fall.

#### ***IB. Concentration Computing Proficiency Requirement***

The Faculty approved the addition of a Concentration Computing Proficiency Requirement (CCPR) as part of the new curriculum in the Spring of 1993. The Computing Proficiency Subcommittee solicited proposals from departments and programs last fall and has submitted its report and recommendations to the EPC. As discussed in the April EPC report, the Subcommittee recommended, and the EPC has adopted, the following strategy:

Departments with resources, courses, and expertise already in place have been encouraged to incorporate a Computing Proficiency Requirement into their Concentration Requirements for the 1995-96 Undergraduate Catalog. Our goal is that the full CCPR will be implemented by the Fall of 1996.

The understanding here is that students declaring a concentration in a department will have to satisfy the CCPR if provisions for doing so appear in the catalog which is current at the time of declaration. Appeals for exemptions from this requirement should be addressed to the Undergraduate Dean's Office.

The Subcommittee identified thirteen departments/programs which could implement a CCPR for the 1995-96 Undergraduate Catalog. The proposed Computing Proficiency requirements of the following departments have been approved: Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Geology, Kinesiology, Mathematics, Modern Languages and Literatures, Music, Physics, Psychology, Public Policy, and Sociology.

#### ***IC. Update on Pilot Projects***

Music: The Music Pilot Project Advisory Committee (PPAC) has met several times and drafted new assessment tools and a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the details of the assessment process.

Art/Art History: The Art/Art History PPAC has met and is also drafting a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the form of its report and assessment process.

#### ***ID. EPC endorsement of the conversion of the Applied Science Program into the Department of Applied Science.***

The Committee on Graduate Studies has recommended that the Applied Science Program be converted into the Department of Applied Science. While the proposed Department would not have an undergraduate concentration, the EPC was asked to endorse this change because the proposed Department would offer opportunities for undergraduate research and study. The EPC unanimously endorses this conversion.

## **II. Action Items:**

#### ***IIA. Changes in continuance and probation requirements.***

The Committee on Academic Status (CAS) recommended and the EPC endorses the following changes in the continuance and probation requirements:

#### **Proposed changes in continuance requirements (required OPA):**

<u>Semester</u>	<u>Old system</u>	<u>New system</u>
1	1.0	1.1
2	1.0	1.1
3	1.3	1.4
4	1.3	1.4
5	1.6	1.7
6	1.6	1.7
7	1.8	1.9
8	1.8	1.9
9	2.0	2.0
10	2.0	2.0

Proposed change in probation requirements: at present a student on probation need only meet the continuance requirements for the semester in question in order to be returned to good standing. However, the continuance requirements (especially in the first few semesters) are well below the QPA required for a degree (2.0). Hence, for example, a third semester student could be returned to good standing after achieving only a 1.3. The CAS, and the EPC, feel strongly that to be returned to good standing a student should be required to demonstrate the ability to perform at a level sufficient to satisfy degree requirements, i.e. to successfully complete at least 12 credits at a 2.0 semester QPA.

Both the continuance and probation requirements are stated in the catalog and, hence, are part of the 'contract' with students the school must abide by. Therefore, these changes would be phased in and would apply only to those students admitted under the new catalog.

The EPC proposes:

"That the Faculty adopt the recommended changes in continuance requirements, as summarized in the above table, and to change the probationary requirements to state that a student on probation must satisfactorily complete at least 12 credits with a 2.0 QPA in the probationary semester in order to be returned to good standing."

#### *IIB. Proposed transcript insert.*

In response to a request by students the EPC has examined the issue of grade inflation. A ten-year survey of grade distributions in Arts and Sciences shows that there has been an upward trend in the average QPA. However, a comparison with other institutions of comparable quality reveals that the average William & Mary QPA is significantly lower (in the most extreme cases by almost half a point). This can mean a substantial competitive disadvantage for our students in applying for admission to graduate and professional schools, and in the job market.

The committee feels strongly that it would be inappropriate to legislate changes in the grading practices of the Faculty. But the committee also feels that something should be done to address this problem, and suggests that more explanatory information should be provided to help the reader better understand the transcript. The EPC recommends:

"That the following additional information be supplied with every undergraduate student's transcript: a) the grade distribution percentages for all undergraduates for each of the last five years (i.e. %A's, %B's, etc.); and b) the average cumulative QPA of all undergraduates for each of the last five years."

### **III. Curricular changes and/or new course approvals as of April 20, 1995.**

#### *IIIA. Conversion of Comparative Literature concentration to Literary and Cultural Studies.*

The EPC approved the conversion of the Comparative Literature Program into the Literary and Cultural Studies Program. Details can be found on WAMI, or a copy of the proposal can be requested from the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

#### *IIIB. Various and sundry changes.*

##### ART/ART HISTORY:

ARTH 472-473 Eighteenth Century Decorative Arts in Britain and America renumbered as ARTH 385-386.  
ARTH 482 Introduction to Art Museology: A Survey I renumbered as ARTH 387.  
ARTH 483 Introduction to Art Museology: A Survey II renumbered as ARTH 388.  
ARTH 484 Museum Internships renumbered as ARTH 389.  
ART 315, 316 changes in course structure and catalog descriptions.

##### BIOLOGY:

BIO 108 An Introduction to Ecology and Environmental Science, 3 cr., new course.

##### CHEMISTRY

CHEM 335 Chemical Principles, 3 cr., AS designation, new course.

##### ENGLISH:

The following courses were approved for GER 3 (Social Sciences) designation:

ENG 220/ANTH 220 Study of Language.  
ENG 304 Generative Syntax.  
ENG 307 Intermediate Phonology and Morphology.  
ENG 404/ANTH 404 Historical Linguistics.  
ENG 405/ANTH 405 Descriptive Linguistics.  
ENG 406/ANTH 406 Language and Society (was already listed in the April report).

#### GEOLOGY:

Changes in Concentration requirements.

Catalog description, section 2b. will now read: "Two additional semester courses totaling at least six credits elected from among Geology 303, 304, 305, 306, 309, 402, 403, 407 and 408."

Section 3a. will now read: "Three semester courses totaling eight credits, which are Geology 103, 305 and 408."

Section 3b. will now read: "Two additional semester courses totaling at least six credits elected from among Geology 202, 302, 304, 401, 402, 403 and 407."

Changes in Minor requirements.

Catalog heading 3. will now read: "Two from Geology 303, 304, 305, 306, 308, 309, 402, 403, 408."

#### KINESIOLOGY:

Change in Concentration requirements:

Reduction in the required core courses to: BIO 308 Anatomy; KIN 322 Principles of Motor Learning; KIN 394 Statistics and Evaluation; KIN 493 Philosophy of Physical Activity and Sport. The number of required hours will not change.

Change in Minor requirements:

"A minor consists of 21 credits. One course is required from each of the three groups listed below:

Group I: KIN 150, KIN 204, KIN 493.

Group II: KIN 322, KIN 340, KIN 355, KIN 400.

Group III: BIO 304, BIO 308.

The balance of the 21 hours should be chosen from electives in Kinesiology. Registration preference will only be given to concentrators."

Clarification of repeat option: "DANC 301 Practicum and DANC 330 Internship can be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits."

#### MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES:

ML 250 "The Impact of New Technology on Modern Languages" 1 cr. (new course).

#### MUSIC:

MUS 113 History of Western Music renumbered as MUS 213.

MUS 141 Worlds of Music renumbered as MUS 241.

#### PHYSICS:

PHYS 251 Experimental Modern Physics, change from 1 to 2 cr., addition of lecture hour.

PHYS 352 Experimental Modern Physics, change from 1 to 2 cr., addition of lecture hour.

Change in concentration requirements:

Students must complete PHYS 101, 102, 201, 208, 251, 252, 313, 401, two of the four courses PHYS 303, 314, 402, 403, and either the Senior Project (PHYS 451-2) or Honors (PHYS 495-6).

#### PSYCHOLOGY:

PSY 320 Prevention and Community Psychology, change in catalog description.

PSY 407 Social Psychology and the Law renumbered as PSY 450, change in prerequisites.

#### SOCIOLOGY:

SOC 401, addition of prerequisite.