

Educational Policy Committee
Report to Arts and Sciences Faculty
Oct. 3, 1995

I. EPC makes the following two part motion:

Resolved that, in the 1996-1997 Catalogue the following additions be made:

a. The sentence "A student's record is closed, i.e., cannot be changed or amended, once the student's degree has been conferred" be added at the end of the paragraph beginning "A student must..." on page 46 of the 1995-96 Catalogue.

b. The sentences "A degree may not be conferred with any Incompletes on the record. Appeals for late withdrawal from a course may be directed to the Committee on Academic Status; appeals that an I grade be turned to an F immediately may be directed to the Committee on Degrees. Be aware that these Committees have deadlines for appeals." be added at the end of the paragraph beginning "'I' indicates that..." on page 57 of the 1995-96 Catalogue.

Explanation and Rationale

To see why EPC has made these motions, consider the following cases, all of which have actually happened.

1. Several years after A's degree is conferred, A decides that it would be useful to have Math listed on the transcript as a concentration. A needs two Math courses to complete the requirements for a Math concentration and asks to come back to W&M to complete the courses and thus add the Math concentration to the transcript.

2. During the semester after B's degree has been conferred, B decides that it would be useful to have a higher grade point average, and asks to be permitted to complete the outstanding work in order to replace the two Incompletes on the transcript with letter grades.

3. At the time of graduation, C has enough credits to have the degree conferred, despite two Incompletes on the record; the Incompletes are never made up.

4. At the time of graduation, D still needs three credits in order for the degree to be conferred, has received an Incomplete in one course taken in the final semester, and has been admitted to a postgraduate degree program. Because D finishes the work for the course over the summer, the degree is conferred in August, and, as required by the postgraduate institution, D has the degree before postgraduate matriculation.

Most of us are pretty clear that (1) ought to be decided in such a way that A is not allowed to return to W&M. This is in fact the way the case was decided. However, the decision did not have legal force should it have been challenged, because the catalogue does not yet say that a student's record is closed once the degree is conferred. The first part of our motion speaks to this problem.

Accepting the first part of the motion in effect creates a conflict between itself and our rules for Incomplete grades, since a student is permitted to complete the outstanding work and change the Incomplete grade to a letter grade. With the conflict, there is no way to decide case (2). In order to avoid this conflict, EPC proposes the second part of the present motion. In effect, the motion says that case (4) is our sense of the appropriate way to deal with Incompletes in the record when the student wants the degree conferred. However, since student D in (4) did not have enough credits to permit the degree to be conferred, s/he had motivation to complete the work, motivation that was not present in (3). Unless we decide to rule out case (3), as the motion does, we return to the conflict present in case (2). Thus, EPC's motion rules out case (3) in addition to deciding case (2).

The use of the phrase "degree...conferred" is intended to call attention to the current difference between graduation as participating in the graduation ceremonies of the College and having the degree in hand. It is not unusual, for example, that a student be permitted to participate in the graduation exercises but, because s/he still is slightly short of the number of credits needed to get the degree, receive a empty folder in the ceremony. Once the student has acquired the remaining required credits, his/her degree is conferred, i.e., the student has

the degree in hand. The motions envisage the same practice being extended to students who have Incompletes remaining on the record.

As with all other regulations that put some students at a disadvantage relative to the Catalogue in force at the time of their matriculation, the motion, if it is passed, will first become binding on the class entering the College in September, 1996.

II. EPC makes the following motion:

Resolved that, effective immediately, a student may receive a B.A. or B.S. degree with a secondary concentration in Business by declaring a primary concentration in Arts and Sciences and a secondary concentration in Business.

Explanation and Rationale

Undergraduate students currently in the Business school are permitted to obtain a B.B.A. degree with a secondary concentration in Arts and Sciences. In fact, some degrees have been conferred on students with a B.B.A. with a such a secondary concentration. There are some situations in which having a B.A. or B.S. with a secondary concentration in business would be helpful for students. For example, a student primarily interested in government service, but aware of the importance of business practice in government decisions might concentrate in both Public Policy and Business; present regulations give the student only the option of presenting him/herself as primarily interested in Business, since currently the only way to present the combination is through getting a B.B.A. with a secondary concentration in Public Policy. Other students who would benefit from the motion might have primary concentrations in Economics, Psychology, various Area Studies, International Relations, and so on.

The procedure we suggest for selection of which degree a student receives is essentially the same as current practice for those students who have double concentrations such that one concentration offers a B.S. degree and the other a B.A. degree.

Since this change would work to the benefit of some students and harm none, we recommend that the change take effect immediately upon passage by the Faculty.

III. GER 4 Course actions

EPC has made decisions on courses proposed last year as applicable for satisfying GER 4. The present status of each course proposed is presented in Appendix A of this report.

The courses in Appendix A are divided into five lists marked A, B, C, Reject, and In Transition. The A list is those courses that may be used to satisfy the requirement in GER 4 that the student take one course in the history and/or culture in the European tradition. The B list contains those courses which a student may use to satisfy the GER 4 requirement that s/he must take one course in the history and/or culture of traditions other than the European. A, B and C lists together present those courses with which students may satisfy the GER 4 requirement that they take a third course in the history and/or culture in the European tradition or traditions other than the European or a course in cross-cultural studies. The courses on the Reject list have been rejected by the GER 4 Working Group, the Subcommittee on General Education (SGE), and EPC. Those on the In Transition list include courses accepted by the Working Group but not SGE, those rejected by the Working Group but whose proposers were encouraged by SGE to appeal the rejection to the Working Group, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesse P. Bohl, Chair, for
Educational Policy Committee

Appendix to EPC Report for Oct. 3, 1995
Courses Accepted/Rejected by the EPC

GER 4A (Accept)

ANTH 317 Archaeology of Europe
ARTH 251 Survey of Art History I
ARTH 252 Survey of Art History II
CIV 217 Greek Archaeology & Art
CIV 218 Roman Archaeology & Art
CIV 311 Ancient History - Greece
CIV 312 Ancient History - Rome
CIV 315 Women in Antiquity
CIV 316 Men in Antiquity
ECON 341 American Economic History
ECON 342 European Economic History
ECON 344 Economic Development of the South
ENG 203 Major English Writers, Medieval and Renaissance
ENG 204 Major English Writers, 18th and 19th Century
ENG 207 Major American Writers
GER 301 German Literature from the Beginning to 1700
GER 302 German Literature from 1700 to 1832
HIST 101 History of Western Civilization (ancient world to 1715)
HIST 102 Western Civilization (1715 to present)
MUS 171 American Vernacular Music
PHIL 321 Existentialism
PHIL 322 American Philosophy
PHIL 331 Greek Philosophy
PHIL 332 Medieval Philosophy
PHIL 352 17th and 18th Century Philosophy
PHIL 353 Kant and His Successors
REL 204 Christian Origins
REL 210 Introduction to the History of Christianity
REL 303 Introduction to the History of Jewish Thought
REL 331 The World of Early Christianity
REL 332 The World of Medieval Christianity
REL 345 Religion in American Life and Thought to 1840
REL 346 Religion in American Life and Thought, 1840-Present

GER 4B (Accept)

ANTH 319 Archaeology of the Near East
ANTH 330 Caribbean Cultures
ANTH 335 Peoples & Cultures of Africa
ANTH 338 Native Cultures of Latin America
ANTH 340 Peoples & Cultures of Southeast Asia
ANTH 342 Peoples & Cultures of East Asia
ANTH 346 Peoples & Cultures of South Asia
ANTH 347 Japanese Society
ANTH 349 Contemporary Issues in Japanese Society
CHI 309 History of Chinese Literature

HIST 103 Global History to 1500
HIST 150W History & Biography: An Introduction to China and
Japan Through the Lives of Individuals
HIST 205 Survey of East Asian Civilization (Pre-1600)
HIST 206 Survey of East Asian Civilization (1600-Present)
HIST 307 African History (to 1800 AD)
HIST 308 African History (post 1800 AD)
HIST 309 Latin American History (to 1824)
HIST 310 Latin American History, (post 1824)
HIST 379 The Modern Middle East, (pre 1800)
HIST 380 The Modern Middle East (post-1800)
PHIL 324 Classical Chinese Philosophy
REL 203 History of Religion of Ancient Israel
REL 300 Islam: Faith & Institutions
REL 311 Hinduism
REL 312 Buddhism
REL 313 History & Religion in East Asia
REL 317 Women in Islam: Tradition & Change
REL 318 Political Theories in Islam
REL 414 Buddhism in the Modern World

GER 4C (Accept)

ANTH 305 Comparative Colonial Systems
ANTH 309 Health & Illness in Cross-cultural Perspective
ANTH 312 Comparative Colonial Archaeology
ANTH 320 Rise & Fall of Civilizations
ECON 382 The Centrally Planned Economy
HIST 150 The United States and Japan
HIST 150W World of Columbus
MUS 241 Worlds of Music
REL 411 Modern Hinduism
SOC 207 Becoming Americans

REJECTED

ANTH 201 Introduction to Archaeology
ANTH 202 Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 303/4 Introduction to Archaeological Conservation
ENG 436 World Novel
GER 406 History of the German Language
SOC 206 Comparative Sociology

In TRANSITION

ANTH 307 Social Anthropology
ANTH 308 Primitive Religion
ANTH 420 Tropical Ecology
ANTH 421 Stress & its Management in Cross Cultural Perspective
ENG 437 Literature of the Americas
HIST 104 Global History since 1500
PHIL 336 Contemporary Analytic Philosophy