

**General Studies Council
Meeting of January 15, 2002**

Members present: Envick, Heckman, Kropp, Ludeman, Moorman, Nikels, Wozniak

Members absent: Camp, Cook-Fong, Tassi

The meeting was called to discuss the Academic Program Review report submitted by Dr. Dave Christiansen on December 20, 2001. Several points were made and are summarized in the list below.

- **The process necessary to make any changes to the structure of the General Studies Program needs to be defined clearly.**
- **It is not even clear how to get the process defined.**
- **The functions of the General Studies Council need to be made clearer-even with regard to the approval of courses. This is particularly important for newly appointed members of the GSC.**
- **The criteria for course approval need to be clearer. This would be especially beneficial to the new members of the GSC.**
- **There needs to be clarification of the purposes of the General Studies Program beyond the mission statement and with regard to the specific categories of the program.**
- **Means to "depoliticize" the process of changing the General Studies Program were discussed. Since so many of the decisions concerning faculty staffing are dependent on enrollments, any changes to the GSP will have consequences on the staffing of departments. There needs to be some assurances that GS enrollment patterns will not have immediate major effects on departments. If reducing class sizes is the only side effect, the GSP changes will be welcomed. If the reduced class sizes becomes a factor in making staffing decisions, then changes will be looked upon with cynicism.**
- **Decision-making on the basis of enrollment patterns, especially fall semester enrollment patterns, was discussed extensively. It was thought that, in some cases, the availability of certain courses has been changed to increase fall enrollment numbers, but has had the consequence of limiting access of certain courses and program to students. It was suggested that decision-making should be based on year-round enrollment data.**
- **It was agreed that the Director should initiate discussion of the governance issues with the Council of Deans.**
- **It was also agreed that each College's faculty (in some appropriate College venue) and the Faculty Senate should discuss the governance issues, the issues raised in the Academic Program Review, and any other issues concerning the General Studies Program. The Council would then collect all of the recommendations for consideration in the fall. The Director will prepare the written request for each College and the Faculty Senate for review by the GSC at the February meeting.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Bill Wozniak
Director of General Studies**