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Request for a Review of a Mandatory GSU 1210

Submitted by: Janie Wilson

3/22/2000

Motion:

"We move that the Undergraduate Council review the relevance and utility of GSU 1210 particularly in regard to transfer students."

Rationale:

Senate Response:

Dr. Warkentin reported that this request was referred to the Undergraduate Council, which will provide a progress report to the Senate at its April meeting. The request read: "We move that the Undergraduate Council review the relevance and utility of GSU 1210 particularly in regard to transfer students." Dr. Janie Wilson (CLASS), who submitted this request for information, stated that one of the main reasons GSU 1210 became mandatory was because students who elected to take the course were more successful in college than those who did not elect to take it. She suggested that was faulty logic given that the students who elected to take the course may have been more highly motivated in the first place. Dr. Wilson suggested that data from students who took the mandatory course be compared with those who elected to take the course, and she offered to help with the data analysis.

D. Charlene Black (Associate VPAA; Dean, Undergraduate Studies) said that the First Year Experience Council would consider the issue and get back to the Undergraduate Council. Dr. Wilson also requested that the schedule and agenda of the Undergraduate Council be posted. Dr. Black stated that they were posted to a Web page. Dr. Wilson asked that a link be provided to this site from the new Senate Web page.

Minutes: 4/24/2000: Dr. Fred Richter (Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Studies) provided an extensive review of GSU 1210. Dr. Richter spoke about the successes and challenges associated with GSU 1210 and other Orientation courses. Dr. Dave Campaigne (Student Affairs) explained a handout distributed to senators that pointed out that students who took GSU 120 (the precursor to GSU 1210) were retained at a higher rate than those who did not take GSU 120.

Dr. Richter acknowledged the frustration of transfer students who feel that they should not be required to take the Orientation courses, and about the search for creative solutions to this problem by his office and the GSU 1210 Advisory Council. He described the limitations facing the Orientation program, including the inadequacy of the \$500 stipend compensation to faculty members, the general lack of interest in teaching Orientation courses from the Corps of Instruction, and the lack of formal recognition of faculty willing to teach Orientation courses. Dr. Richter finished by stating: "If greater institutional support is not forthcoming, perhaps the powers that be, and that includes yourselves and the faculty members you represent, should consider returning to a voluntary, and thus more economical, model for a smaller number of students."

There were no questions or comments from senators.