Senate approves lion's share of proposal for revised general education policy

The Faculty Senate March 25 approved most of a proposed revision of the University's general education policy with four proficiencies and eight distribution areas, leaving only criteria for four distribution areas for its next meeting May 13. The senate may consider more than two dozen changes that were made after the proposed policy was first distributed to faculty members and others on Feb. 19. It would provide the first change in general education in 20 years.

When the senate completes work on the policy, its recommendation will be sent to Provost Nancy S. Barent for her review. She will then make a recommendation to President Hamnick.

"We did not seek change for the sake of change," said Arthur E. Falk, chairperson of philosophy. He is the chairperson of the senate's ad hoc Committee to Revise General Education, which proposed the new policy. "We sought to preserve what is good, correct what failed and exploit opportunities for improvements."

The proposed revision, Falk said, favors distribution over core requirements, sets no limits on the number of courses that can be applied to general education and seeks a balance between breadth and depth.

"The proficiencies allow students to improve skills that are fundamental to most intellectual endeavors," he said, "and the distribution component, which we call the distribution component, gives students a balanced and comprehensive overview of what is known."

The proficiencies and distribution areas require at least 37 credit hours, the same number of credit hours as the existing program when two required credit hours of physical education are included. The revised policy incorporates the University's college-level and baccalaureate-level writing requirements, replaces the physical education requirement with a health and fitness requirement and lets the University's computer literacy requirement continue in force separately.

The proficiencies — the revised policy's major innovation — are: college-level writing; baccalaureate-level writing; college-level mathematics or quantitative reasoning; and advanced proficiency in one of six option areas.

The option areas, from which students would choose one, are advanced writing, mathematics or quantitative reasoning, critical thinking, oral communication, computer programming and applications and courses to advance proficiency in a foreign language at a level second-semester college level.

The proficiencies are different from ones the senate approved Oct. 3, 1991, when it created the committee to revise the policy, and so the senate rescinded them before approving the new ones. The previous proficiencies were in writing, mathematics, computer usage and health and fitness.

The eight distribution areas are: fine arts; humanities; the United States; cultures and issues; other cultures and civilizations; social and behavioral sciences; natural sciences with laboratory; natural science and technology; applications and implications; and health and fitness.

Course work must total at least 37 hours. The policy states, not counting the baccalaureate-level writing course except for designated majors, at least six hours must be taken from 300- or 400-level courses in the distribution areas and no more than two courses may be taken from any one department to satisfy distribution requirements.

The senate debated and approved such alternatives as proficiency in American Sign Language to meet an advanced proficiency option. It also extended the description on diversity in the area of distribution requirements (U.S. cultures and issues), emphasizing diversity as a central "challenge" of the nation's past, present and future.

The revision creates the Committee to Oversee General Education (COGE) as a standing committee of the senate's Undergraduate Studies Council (USC). The nine-member committee will determine which courses are approved for general education after they have been approved by department and college curriculum committees.

The COGE will assess the success of the general education program and recommend improvements to the USC, encourage development of a program of student and parent involvement, give students a balanced and comprehensive overview of what is known.

Two faculty members, two students earn MAGB awards

Two WMU faculty members and two students will be honored Wednesday, April 7, by the Michigan Association of Governing Boards. The faculty members are: Erika Loeffler, anthropology; and Richard N. Passero, geology.

The students are: David K. Kedrowski, anthropology; and Richard N. Passero, geology. He is the chairperson of the ausgeh committee to revise the general education policy, which proposed the new policy. "We sought to preserve what is good, correct what failed and exploit opportunities for improvements."

Kedrowski was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award, WMU's highest honor for a faculty member, this past fall. His work also has been recognized with grant support from several international organizations. Passero is a national figure in the field of groundwater education and research. He has been instrumental in securing substantial external funding for projects at the University that have contributed to WMU's prominence in the area of hydrogeology. Since joining the faculty in 1966, he has established the Institute for Water Sciences, the Water Resources and Contaminant Hydrology Center, the Groundwater Education Program and the WMU's Groundwater Education Program. The educational materials developed by the GEM center are used throughout the nation and nation.

Kedrowski is widely regarded as an expert in Iran, the Iranian revolution and women in the Middle East. For more than 25 years, she has conducted field research on village and family life in Iran. She has written about her experiences in the critically acclaimed book, "Women of Deh Koh, Lives in an Iranian Village," which was nominated for the Victoria Turner Prize for Ethnographic Writing. She is a contributing author and co-editor of the forthcoming book, "Women in Post-Revolutionary Iran."

A WMU faculty member since 1971, Loeffler was awarded the Distinguished Faculty...
WMU ‘committed to proper zoning’ for most of research and business park land, official says

The University remains “committed to proper zoning” for most of the land to be developed as part of its research and business park, a WMU official said last week.

At the beginning of the project, the University has been committed to placing as much of the developable land at the site as possible on the local property tax rolls,” said James A. Visser, assistant vice president for regional education and economic development.

“WMU is also committed to spurring overwhelmingly private development of the park’s 260 acres across the full range of parties for the construction of buildings by private companies,” he continued. “This means that WMU is committed to proper zoning for most of the land to be developed in the park.

“WMU remains committed to completing the preliminary draft of an environmental impact statement that will be legally attached to the land by way of conditions and deed restrictions,” Visser said. “These preliminary standards require further refinement, which will get under way shortly with the assistance of William J. Johnson & Associates.”

The Kalama\u0092 City Commission this week approved a statement that supplements its earlier support of the park in concept, based in part on a 1991 Faculty Senate report calling for the park, since the University was planning the portion of the park to be developed within the city of Kalama\u0092.

April 5 event will be a discussion on “Gender and Religion” led by WMU senior Rebecca L. Wil-...
On campus

Sharma, Ellin to lead Faculty Senate in 1993-94

Visho Sharma, science studies, and Joseph S. Ellin, philosophy, have been elected to one-year terms as president and vice president, respectively, of the Faculty Senate for 1993-94. Sharma and Ellin will assume office April 15 at the senate's annual dinner meeting, during which elections for corresponding secretary, recording secretary, and recording secretary will be conducted. After the election of officers, an election will be conducted to fill term that expire in all seven of the senate's constituencies.

Sharma will replace Ellen K. Page-Robin, commerce, who served two terms and will complete her fourth term as senate president. She is the first person to serve four terms as president. Ellin will assume his first term as vice president this year and is chairperson of the Undergraduate Studies Council.

Visho Sharma, currently serves as chairperson of the Regional Education Council and is a senate representative to the Campus III Advisory Board.

The 1992-93 senate executive board, besides Page-Robin and Sharma, included David G. Dickson, geography, corresponding secretary; Larry J. Tenham, English, treasurer; David A. Ede, religion.

Candidate for graduate dean here April 8-9 for interviews

John D. Vitek, a candidate for dean of the Graduate College, will be on campus for interviews Thursday and Friday, April 8-9. Vitek is a professor of geology at Oklahoma State University. From 1989 to 1992, he was associate dean of OSU's Graduate College after serving as its assistant dean in 1986.

He will be meeting with a variety of constituency groups during his visit. There will be open forum for interested faculty and staff from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday in 102 Wood Hall. An open forum for interested students will be held from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Thursday in 205 Bernhard Center.

Forms on which persons can write their comments have been provided. The forms and other responses may be sent to Dean Douglas P. Ferraro, arts and sciences, who is chairing the search committee.

Workshop to cover patents

A free campus workshop covering patent and copyright procedures will be offered by two area patent attorneys from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. May 7 in 304 Administration. David Boutell and Terrence Chapman from the Kalamazoo offices of Flynn, Thiel, Boutell & Chapman, will conduct the workshop that is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research and the Office of the Vice President for External Affairs and General Council.

For additional details and to register for the workshop, persons should call Roberta Hampton, Office of the Vice President for Research, at 7-3689 by Monday, April 5.

Jobs

The following vacancies are currently being posted through the Job Opportunity Program by employment services in the Department of Human Resources. Interested, benefits-eligible employees should submit a job opportunity transfer application or sign the appropriate bid sheet during the posting period.

5-01 and 5-02 clerical positions are not remote postings. Instead, interested University employees may contact an employment services staff member for assistance in securing these positions.

(R) Clerk II, S-03, Accounts Payable, 929-337, 330-4503.
(R) Clerk II, G-01 (Hourly Paid), Public Safety, 929-3318, 330-4503.

The following position faculty has been appointed by the provost and is being recruited by the department named:

(NG) Assistant Professor (Temporary; 1-Year Contract), English.

Please call the Applicant Information Service at 7-3689 for up-to-date information on the Job Opportunity Program and vacancies available to external applicants.

(NG) New (R) Replacement

WMU is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

On campus

BALANCING ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

Jeff A. Stone knows firsthand the challenges student-athletes face. As an undergraduate at Alma College, he worked to balance his academic work with his athletic activities as a member of the football and basketball teams.

Now, he's helping athletes manage their academic and athletic averages along with their batting averages here at WMU. The athletic academic coordinator in the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, he provides academic support services for WMU's 400 varsity athletes, 400 club athletes, tables, tutors and works with coaches on the team advising for WMU's student-athletes.

He also works closely with the admissions and registration staffs to monitor initial and continuing eligibility. Due to the construction on the Gary Center and Beadle Fieldhouse, Stone's office is temporarily located in the Bernhard Center across from the administrative offices in West Hall, but closer to the students he serves. "I don't work with every athlete every year, but I probably see most of them at some point during their time here."

"I manage to get to know them by name," Stone became interested in this line of work while earning his master's degree from Bowling Green State University. "This area combines athletic endeavors, which I enjoy, with academic endeavors, which is where student-athletes are here," he says.

He worked in a similar position at the University of Louisville before joining the WMU staff six years ago.

Human resources

University announces 1993-94 holiday schedule

Summer's coming, and the holiday and winter closure schedule for the 1993-94 fiscal year has been posted for work and student offices.

Prospective students and parents, as well as current students, will be notified of the schedule by letter, e-mail and telephone. All University employees will observe Memorial Day as a legal holiday on Monday, May 31, and Independence Day on Monday, July 5, because July 4 falls on a Sunday. There will be no classes in session, and offices and units except those designated essential services will be closed on these days. Some other holiday observances may follow a different schedule for non-bargaining and bargaining unit employees. Please consult the posted schedule for your supervisor if you have questions.

U.S. Savings Bond drive on

Although U.S. Savings Bonds may be purchased any time, once a year the Department of Human Resources' Benefits Division works with the University's Office of Financial Aid and the U.S. Savings Bond office to provide a regular savings habit, tailored to their savings needs, like saving for your child's college education or your retirement. By using payroll deduction, employees can develop a regular savings habit, tailored to their own individual needs.

Retirement seminar on Social Security

All employees and their spouses are invited to attend the final session of the Planning for Retirement seminar Wednesday, April 7, which will cover Social Security. The seminar will run from 10 a.m. to noon in the Red Rooms of the Bernhard Center.

Gary Mitts of Social Security Administration will discuss the most recent provisions governing Social Security retirement benefits. The seminar will be presented by the benefits and training development of the Office of Human Resources.

Reservations are necessary, and may be made by calling Doris J. Moore at 7-6256.

Obituaries

Isabelle R. Smith, emerita in consumer resources and technology, died March 20 in Battle Creek. She was 68.

Smith joined the faculty in 1968 after earning her master's degree from WMU. Her bachelor's degree was from Wayne State University. Previously she was a teacher at Battle Creek Central High School and a dietician at Receiving Hospital in Detroit.

Smith served in interim chairperson of what was then WMU's Department of Home Economics in 1974-75. She retired from the University in 1983.

Stella C. Spiker, retired from consumer resources and technology, died March 24 in Kalamazoo. She was 79.

Spiker worked at the University as a teacher's assistant in the former Department of Home Economics for 41 years, retiring in 1984. She was past president of the VFW Auxiliary Post #1572 and was a volunteer for Senior Services.

Media

Irene S. Vasquez, religion, discusses the renewed attention on religious cults or sects on "Focus," a five-minute interview produced by news services, "Focus" is scheduled to air Saturday, April 3, at 6:10 a.m. on WKPR-AM (1420).
NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE — John A. Bradley, admissions and orientation, shared his Native American culture with students attending the American Indian Family and Tribal Community Conference in the Fetzer Center March 26-27. Bradley read to the children a session titled "Stories of Indian Heroes." The children's sessions ran concurrently with presentations for adults on current and historical problems facing Native Americans. The conference drew speakers from across the United States and Canada who addressed such topics as "Survival of the Tribal Community" and "Suppression of Indian Life."

General education (Continued from page one)

orientation and develop means to assist department and faculty members with general education, the policy states.

Students may take examinations instead of courses for the proficiencies if the department offering the course work provides for credit by examination and the COGE agrees, and the policy states. Students would take three- or four-hour courses in fine arts, humanities, U.S. cultures and issues, other courses and civilizations, social and behavioral sciences and natural science and technology; four- or five-hour courses in natural sciences with laboratory; and two hours in music and drama.

The policy accommodates students who are enrolled in a curriculum that requires many credit hours with little flexibility, the proposal states. A partial remedy available now will continue, namely that departments can count general education courses toward another requirement as well if the COGE agrees. And contemporary perspectives and issues."