

**From:** Hanner, Mary Anne

**Sent:** Friday, March 21, 2008 8:41 AM

**To:** Roszkowski, Christie

**Cc:** Pearson, Rita I.; Major, Brenda L.; Lord, Blair M.; Hine, Will; Canfield, Stephen A.; Billa; Klarup, Doug; Storm, Leonard; Peter G. Andrews; Fischer, Bud (Robert); Karbassioon, Ebrahim; Foster, Gary; Green, Tonya; Kuykendall, Barb; Methven, Andrew; Miller Jr, Charles E.; Nelson, Dianne E.; Obia, Godson; Wandling, Richard; Richard, Gail; Stimac, John; Hanner, Mary Anne; Hoadley, Diane B.; Jackman, Diane H.; Johnson, James K.

**Subject:** FLG requirement change

Members of CAA,

The proposed change in the FLG requirement has been discussed in the COS Curriculum Committee and COS Department Chairs meetings recently. Dr. Canfield attended a COS Department Chairs meeting last fall and received some input. The concerns expressed to Dr. Canfield still exist. While it may seem counter to our educational purposes to argue against an increase in the foreign language requirement, the proposal raises some significant concerns.

- Has assessment data been collected to show the need? What student learning goals do we expect to enhance with this proposal? How will the outcomes be assessed?
- This change in the graduation requirement has the potential to be a very expensive program, implemented at a time when we do not have enough resources for the curricula and programs in place. What is the business plan? How many additional faculty positions will be needed? Will the hiring of those faculty take precedence over the hiring of faculty in other departments and colleges? In addition, but not a minor detail, where would the additional faculty offices be? COS has departments in Coleman Hall and we understand the critical needs for space, particularly office space.
- In times of flat or declining applicant pools and greater dependence on tuition dollars, are we certain that this proposal will not affect our enrollments? How will we ensure that it does not impact our enrollments?
- Two of our most fierce competing institutions are ISU and SIUE. ISU only requires 2 semesters; the requirement at SIUE is not listed in the study. As stated above, enrollments are driving higher education finance in public institutions in ways not seen before. I believe it would be imprudent to move forward with such a proposal without a thorough review of the impacts by our Admissions Office.
- The implementation plan does not indicate how high schools will be informed of the change in graduation requirement. Is the implementation date appropriate? What is the communication plan for high schools and our transfer institutions?
- Additional coursework in some majors will impact time to degree. In particular, most science, CDS, and most education programs of study are challenged to complete the degree in 120 hours and some simply cannot due to professional or credential requirements. This has the potential of adding 4 hours to the program of study, impacting time to degree.
- Non-traditional students are impacted by our current FLG requirement and that impact will be more pronounced with this proposal. If those students completed high school with 2 years of FLG 5-10 years prior to enrolling at EIU, they probably could not complete the third semester course without taking two additional semesters. What accommodations are being considered for students who completed the two year requirement several years earlier? At a

time when we are working to increase access to non-traditional students and competing for those students with virtual universities around the world, this is a significant concern.

- If there is an interest in increasing FLG at EIU, perhaps it should be from the programmatic level. Maybe there are majors or concentrations where an increase in FLG would enhance the curriculum. Maybe it is a requirement that should be considered by College.
- When the graduation requirements are under discussion, there should be wide campus debate as there is when a general education change is proposed. I urge CAA to carefully consider this issue and employ additional efforts to engage the entire campus in this debate.

Mary Anne Hanner, Dean  
College of Sciences  
Eastern Illinois University  
Charleston, IL 61920  
[mahanner@eiu.edu](mailto:mahanner@eiu.edu)  
217/581-3328 (phone)  
217/581-7110 (fax)