

To: Fort Wayne Senate

From: Educational Policy Committee
B. Bulmahn, chair

Date: April 17, 1997

Subject: Amendment of General Education Area III definition and criteria
(amends Senate Documents SD 93-14 and SD 94-4)

Disposition: To the Presiding Officer for implementation

Resolved, That the General Education Area III definition and criteria be amended by deleting the overstruck text and adding the underlined text shown below.

III. The Individual, Culture and Society

Students must understand the nature and diversity of individuals, cultures and societies around the world. An exploration of ~~the structure, processes and experiences that uniquely define American and other societal and cultural systems~~ behavioral, societal, and cultural processes forms the basis for that understanding. This understanding of diverse systems assists the student in overcoming provincialism; in developing the willingness, confidence, and sense of responsibility for making informed decisions; and in acquiring the ability to assess personal behavior and that of others. Such learning requires an historical consciousness; familiarity with components of social structure and social institutions; knowledge of basic behavioral processes; comprehension of the interplay among ideas, technology, and social organization; and appreciation of the complex dimensions of personal and institutional rules.

Criteria for Evaluating Courses Proposed for Inclusion in the Individual, Culture and Society Area

- The course should foster an appreciation of our multicultural society and the diversity of human behavior. It should familiarize students with different customs, traditions and values.
- The course should provide information on social institutions and the processes developed by society for their functioning.
- The course should provide information about behavioral processes and the responses of individuals to the physical and social environment.
- The course should require critical analysis of the concepts and systems discussed. It should contrast culture(s) and society(ies) under consideration with systems familiar to the students.
- The course should provide opportunities for students to enhance their effectiveness in critical thought and dialogue.

- The course should motivate students to consider the variety of experiences, individual personalities, perspectives, and persuasions that have an impact on societies and cultures.
- The course should stimulate a life-long endeavor to nurture awareness of, understanding of, appreciation for, concern for, and respect for humanness and differences as ~~people~~ individuals organize in groups.