

# Revisions of requirements is slow

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In colleges and schools throughout the University, revision of basic education requirements is off to a slow start, despite a University Council commitment in January to tighten up course requirements and pump more mathematics, fine arts and English courses into University degrees.

Five months after the original commitment, examination of basic education requirements is stalled in committee in some colleges where discussion of the requirements is not expected to begin until next fall. Other colleges have discussed the revisions but will not begin to report back until next fall.

Revised basic education requirements were first proposed at the January meeting by James Vick, chairman of the Committee on Basic Education Requirements. The proposed revisions replaced the 1955 Graham Report, which currently mandates 45 credit hours of basic courses incorporated into University degrees.

**PRESIDENT PETER FLAWN** told council members that revising the core courses was one of the most important things they would do all year. However, the Vick report prompted an outcry from faculty in colleges not meeting the requirements because the changes threatened to expand the number of hours required to gain a degree.

The council avoided the controversy in the March meeting by passing a substitute motion proposed by Stanley Werbow, acting dean of the College of Fine Arts, which watered down the Vick report and merely required colleges to "review the requirements for its undergraduate degrees and make changes to bring these requirements within the spirit of the report of the Committee on Basic Requirements."

In the College of Business Administration, revision has been assigned to a standing committee on

undergraduate academic programs that will not meet to discuss revisions until next fall, said Allen Bizzell, assistant dean of undergraduate affairs in the CBA.

"**THE SUBSTITUTE** motion only requires that basic education requirements be within the spirit of the Vick report," Bizzell said. The two areas of divergence from the report are the foreign language requirement of six hours and a three-hour fine arts course, he said.

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No action has been taken in the School of Architecture. Dean Harold Box said, "We meet all of those requirements." Though the School of Architecture does not require any foreign language courses, Box said that the Werbow motion suggested that these requirements be levied as admission requirements.

Louis Zurcher, dean of the School of Social Work, said, "We call for more courses than the Vick report does."

Though the school does not require a mathematics course, Mary Cunningham, chairwoman of the standing committee considering the Vick report, said faculty members are considering designating a new mathematics requirement.

"**IT'S NOT A** matter of major changes," Cunningham said.

In the College of Communication, degree re-

quirements already meet the Vick report specifications except for a fourth semester of English to be taught within the college. The report states that the extra course can be filled by any upper-division, degree-related course that has a "substantial writing component."

"That's the most difficult of the proposals, but generally we're not unhappy with the Vick proposal," said Dean Robert Jeffrey. The standing committee discussing required course revisions will report to the faculty of the college next fall, Jeffrey said.

**ROBERT KING**, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said faculty in the college are "strongly in favor" of the Vick report. He said the revisions are being discussed by a standing committee.

In the College of Pharmacy, a standing committee considering the report has "started things moving," said Dean James Doluisio.

"Our main problem is our concern that we already require 160 credits for an undergraduate degree," Doluisio said. "We're looking at what requirements can possibly be eliminated."

Doluisio said he was most concerned about the foreign language requirement, which he would prefer to see as a requirement for admission.

Faculty in the College of Natural Sciences reflect a "spectrum of positions," said Dean Robert Boyer. The standing committee that will address the revisions has not had a chance to discuss the changes, Boyer said.

**DEAN EARNEST GLOYNA** of the College of Engineering also said the foreign language requirement posed the biggest obstacle to the standing committee discussing compliance with the Vick report.

"It's time now for people to recognize you cannot provide everything within four or five years," Gloyna said. "Sooner or later people have to decide that they can't get all the education of the world in five years."