

Curriculum Task Force Proposes Changes

Compiled by
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The Curriculum Task Force Committee, one of the seven forces created last fall, held a meeting in the Backdoor to give students a chance to learn of the proposed changes for the basic distribution requirements.

Approximately 30 students attended the meeting. Faculty committee members are Dr. Byers, Dr. Thompson, Dr. Kurtz, Mr. Mangum and Mrs. Edwards. They outlined the proposals and answered any questions about them. These proposals are tentative and must be approved by the faculty before they become active.

The basic concern is that we need more highly integrated courses in our basic distribution requirements (BDR). The core curriculum proposal results in a reduction of overall BDRs. These are as follows:

English - 2 courses. These courses would stress written and oral skills as well as emphasizing oral communication.

History - This area was deemed as lacking vital background courses which build on the classical history of western civilization. The history

department would draw on resources in the college and offer a "package deal". This package would be 2 history courses which would simultaneously interact with 2 humanity courses (Philosophy, religion, music, art, literature). The idea is to give the student more depth of knowledge and a more well rounded concept of Western culture.

Social Sciences - 2 courses. These courses would be integrated with the other departments interacting programs. (Social sciences include economics, political science, psychology and sociology.)

Natural sciences - 2 courses. One of the sciences (biology, chemistry, physics) would require a lab, the other requirement does not require one. A new general science

course for non-majors is being considered which would incorporate the concepts of the role of science in the modern world.

Foreign language - reduced from 3 to 2 courses. The aim is to insure a reading ability in either a modern or classical language. Several options are being suggested as ways to fulfill the language requirement. A proficiency test will be available for those who wish to exempt a level of study. A student could take one semester and then the proficiency test, or take one semester and then a January program of concentrated language study to fulfill the requirement.

Physical education proposals include giving 1/4 credit for each required course, with 2 terms (instead of the current 4) of P.E.

required for graduation. This credit will not count in quality point ratio. Persons over 35 are omitted from the P.E. requirements.

Math - Before graduation, each non-major would be required to pass a proficiency test which would demonstrate a working knowledge of decimals, fractions, percentages, word problems and graphs. Further details of this program have yet to be worked out.

Basic distribution requirements for Bachelor of Science majors involve only a few changes from the Bachelor of Arts. BDR's for a BS degree would be 2 courses in English, 2 in Western Civilization, 1 Humanities, 2 foreign languages, 1 social science and the math proficiency.

These proposed BDR changes would incorporate Salem's School of Music. The required courses for music majors now include 2 English courses along with their other B.M. requirements.

Under the suggested changes a B.M. degree would include 2 courses in history, 1 science, 1 social science, 2 P.E., 2 English and the math proficiency.

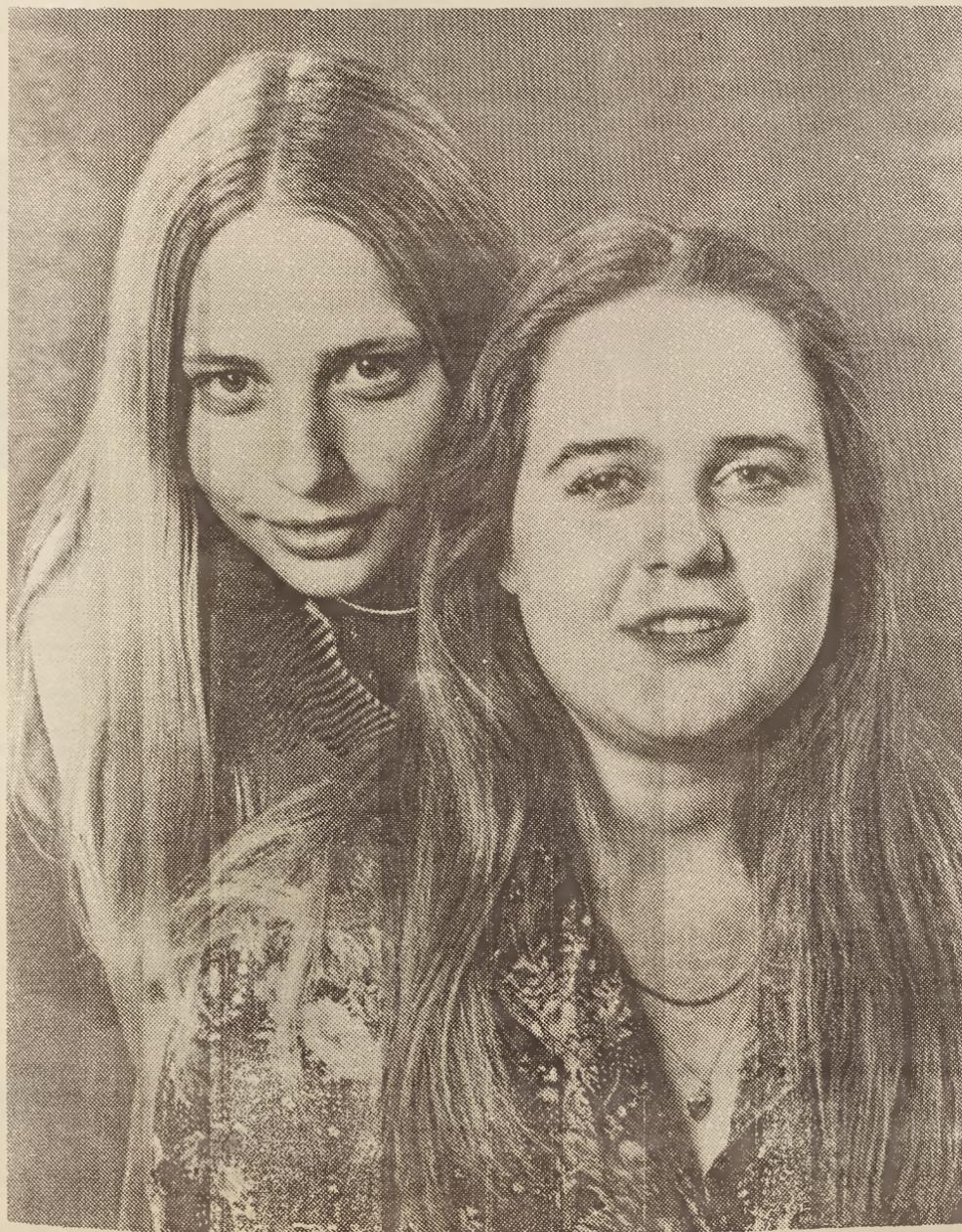
The Curriculum Task Force stresses that this new basic distribution program is only tentative. Its incorporation into Salem's curriculum depends on faculty approval and will soon be voted on.

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Sabine Brech and Katarina Bonde

Salemite Clarifies Journal Article

Many students at Salem have been talking of nothing but the article which appeared in Monday's *Winston-Salem Journal* concerning two foreign students, Katarina Bonde and Sabine Brech. Most of the comments about the article were negative and many Salemites took offense at what Katarina and Sabine had to say about American college life.

I talked with them about their comments as they appeared in the *Journal*. Both were quick to say that they did not intend to retract any statements, but felt that they were quoted out of context by a novice *Journal* reporter.

Sabine and Katarina said that the purpose of the interview was originally concerned with their appearances in the *Pierette's* spring production *Once Upon A Mattress*. The questioning later turned to asking them to compare European university life to their experiences with American university and college life.

The *Journal* article partially recorded their observations about American college life and failed to print the other side of the story. In doing so, the statements appeared totally out of context and misrepresented what Sabine and Katarina said.

Following are some excerpts from the *Journal* article as they appeared on Monday, April 17, under the byline of Barbara Cornell.

According to Miss Brech, "For me it was so amazing because (German) universities are highly political. You can't avoid having your own opinions. All they care about here is dating boyfriends and where the next party is going to be."

The women agreed that campus life is not good preparation for the working world. "You never do anything for yourself," says Miss Brech, who, at the age of 22, is doing graduate-level studies and helping teach at the college. "You just go from one shelter to another, from the shelter of home to the shelter of college."

Having made a last-minute decision to study at Salem College, Miss Brech says her first impressions left her "sort of disappointed." She was especially struck by the "dumb questions" Americans would ask. Miss Bonde says someone once asked her if Switzerland and Sweden were the same country.

Because of the laxity they have found in American education, neither student is leaving with what she considers a complete academic experience. Neither student will have her grades applied toward graduation at her own school. But the emphasis on social life has at least given them a slice of Americana to take back home.

Perhaps these statements would not have offended so many Salem students if they had seen both sides of the comparison which Sabine and Katarina made.

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