

# Winter Term 1990!

## Pros and cons of Winter Term

By Becky Hansen  
JC 225

Winter Term evokes mixed feelings among administrators, faculty, and students. During the more than 25 years of Winter term at Elon College, its purpose has changed, and many of those questioned agree that the change has not been for the better.

Dr. Jim Pickens, head of the Winter Term and Faculty Work Load (Ad Hoc) Committee, says Winter Term problems are greater than the advantages. Associate Academic Dean William Rich says the main problem is that the term is too compressed.

When Winter Term came to Elon College in the late 1960's, the main focus was on experimental courses; internships, foreign travel, and other courses designed specifically for the Winter Term. Through the years, the school began to lean more towards conventional education, offering

science and even mathematic courses during this "experimental term." Several faculty and administrators favor changing back to the original intent of Winter Term. Dean Rich and Dean Francis said the change had already begun a few years ago from the conventional to the innovative courses.

Dr. Pickens says while most of the faculty and administrators are not strongly for or against Winter Term, there are some who are undecided about it. This was revealed in a faculty survey compiled in February 1989 by the Ad Hoc Committee. The survey revealed approximately 40 percent of faculty said they would rather teach special topics than conventional courses during this period. Gerald Francis, Dean of Academic Affairs, maintains that winter term is intended for creativity and more special courses are being introduced each year.

Senior, Katie Alley, says one

good thing about Winter Term is that students have to focus only on a single subject, however, "you tend not to absorb everything because the class is too concentrated." Junior, Kristi Thompson, says that Winter Term is a good time to bring up your grade point average and to get 33 hours in a year instead of only 30. Both students agree three hours is too long to sit in one place and continuously absorb new things but it is a good time to get something you might not like out of the way.

Another problem addressed by Dr. Pickens is that most departments are overworked. He and Dean Francis suggested one solution that would make Winter Term mandatory for all students for two out of four years at Elon. This would give faculty one year on and one year off with more time for new ideas to be generated. For students, Winter Term would be the time to work on internships, foreign travel, and special courses they might not want to take during the regular semester.

### Radio Stations

WBAG 1150 AM  
WBBB 920 AM  
B100 FM  
WFDD 88.5 FM  
WMAG 99.5 FM  
WPCM 101.1 FM  
WSOE 89.5 FM

### Television

WFMY Channel 2  
WGGT Channel 48  
WGHP Channel 8  
WRAL Channel 15  
WTVD Channel 11  
WXII Channel 12

## Weather Watching

By Elisabeth Sementelli  
JC 225

Every winter Elon College is faced with the problem of a winter storm and along with it comes the question of whether or not classes should be cancelled. The length of time it takes for the decision to reach the faculty and students can cause some confusion.

During the bad weather, the college has a group of people that stay awake and periodically check out the roads to see if they are passable. The Class Closing Committee consisting of President Fred Young, Vice President of Administrative Services Robert Poindexter, and Vice President of Academic Student Affairs Warren Board, makes its decision and then contacts the media.

Commuter students feel that the news of closed classes does not come out early enough. Pat Kinney, Dean of Public Relations, says the committee tries to come up with a decision as soon as possible. Kinney says that Elon has many radio and television stations that broadcast Elon's closing. Sometimes the messages do not get to the students in time because the stations have so many cancellations to announce. Students said that they do not know what stations to listen to.

Now that problem is solved, a list of television and radio stations are available. All of the stations can be heard in the Greensboro, Highpoint, Winston-Salem and Raleigh areas. So the next time it snows, keep your list handy and listen to one of the stations.

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