

Faculty to examine new Asian/Pacific Studies minor

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Pendulum Reporter

At their March meeting, Elon's faculty will be voting whether an Asian/Pacific Studies minor should be added to Elon's curriculum.

The proposal for the minor has been passed by Elon's Curriculum Committee and now awaits approval of the faculty.

A proposed grant originated in the Asian Studies Committee, led by former Elon professor Rita Pullium; and was then submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on Nov. 3, 1995 by the Office of International Programs of Elon College. Elon was awarded a two-year grant in the spring of 1996 for \$150,000.

Pullium has since left Elon's faculty and John Sullivan, professor of philosophy, and William Rich, dean of international and special programs, assumed the co-directorship of the grant. The grant

has allowed Elon to add ten new courses related to the minor and a full-time Japanese instructor.

The courses will cover many facets of Asian and Western culture and will be taught by a wide range of professors. The grant money may also be used for additions to the library strengthening current Asian language courses and money to allow professors in the Asian/Pacific Studies minor to travel and research.

Sullivan, the proposed coordinator of the minor, believes that this minor is essential for students as we move into the 21st century.

The next century may well be a century in which the Pacific is important," said Sullivan.

He believes that business majors, among other students, will benefit from the minor. International studies majors will also be able to have a concentration in Asian/Pacific studies.

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"We are just trying to get people interested (in applying)... going around and talking to people," Richter said.

A large factor in the decision to postpone the elections was the interference of Rush with getting signatures for each office.

"I just felt that it was a struggle to get signatures. I didn't realize how hard and stressful it would be with Rush and classes," said Christine Waterman who, when interviewed by *The Pendulum*, had not been informed of the postponement, despite the fact that she is running.

"Besides," Waterman added, "I'd rather have competition. I'm glad that they're being postponed."

Barb Carlton, SGA adviser, worries that they may be cutting the elections too close to the budget hearings.

"I'm always worried...but I've got to trust the system," Carlton

said. "We are doing everything in our power to make sure that doesn't happen," she added.

Candidate Sarah Maccubin said, "It's better to have more people running for if you have a low number of candidates you're not going to be productive."

While some candidates are content with the election changes others feel the situation to be unfair and unreasonable.

"This is absolutely ridiculous," Emily Matesic said. "Those who wanted to run and were serious about the positions got petitions and application done on time. Those who didn't aren't serious."

Despite an ad in *The Pendulum* and word of mouth, only one person applied for each available position.

"Ninety-five percent of the people who turned in packets are

already on SGA because SGA people are the only ones who knew about it," Richter said.

Last year only about one-sixth of Elon's population voted in the SGA election because they don't feel their votes count or that the event is important enough.

"A lot of students don't care and it's our fault partially because we don't convey the importance of SGA to the students," Richter said.

As the results of the election stem solely from the students' vote and anyone, regardless of previous experiences, can run for an SGA position, many look on the elections as merely a popularity contest.

"You've got to really give it (running for an office) thought and I suggest to anybody, if they are going to run for any position, they should come and talk to someone first," Richter said.

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the country, and an opportunity to find a new president who personifies the best of Elon's future."

The search committee has also selected Academic Search Consultant Service to act as a consultant. The firm has conducted more than 400 searches for college presidents and senior officers in the past 20 years.

Academic Search Consultant Service will present a search plan at the Trustee meeting in March.

Assistant to the President Sara Paden Peterson has also been appointed as the committee's executive assistant and will oversee the on-campus process.

Peterson said the committee was not only going to try to keep the campus informed, but was also going to ask for opinions from the different groups, groups such as students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents.

"We want to know what the campus thinks the next president

should be and do," Peterson said.

How the committee will go about surveying the different groups is not yet known.

Peterson said that the consultant and Allen still needed to meet to discuss exactly how they wanted to go about the search.

Peterson said her job was to help the committee set up interviews and other meetings.

"My job is to help with the process, but not to make decisions," Peterson said.

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