

New Education Studies Department prepares for national review in March

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Staff Writer

The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, which is responsible for accrediting schools to give education certification, is coming to Guilford in March to evaluate the Education Studies Department.

Guilford's ability to certify students in teaching is in doubt, due to new requirements which have been added to the certification process in the shift from state to national accreditation.

The Biology and Mathematics Departments have pulled out of the program on their own accord because of a lack of resources to meet the new requirements. Several other departments will not be involved due to a lack of student interest.

Acting Mathematics Department Chairperson Rudy Gordh said, "The Math Department is now the smallest it has been since 1974. We were feeling like we were being asked to do this much more and didn't

feel we had the resources. I am perfectly willing to do exactly what I have always done."

The most problematic change requires that each department certify one member to be present to evaluate students during their on-site teaching sessions. As it was, a member of the Education Department could have blanket certification to do this for all departments.

Also, Guilford professors are concerned that the highly specific national requirements could stifle innovation and uniqueness by forcing them to adhere to a standard curriculum.

"The state wants to make sure we check off all these requirements on a syllabi and keep records," said Gordh.

One reason for the shift in accreditation from state to nation lies in the difficulty the state has had in guaranteeing that its 40 plus education studies programs keep to the higher national standards.

There are several aspects of the department's new program that are innovative.

The New Program...

- Requires a double major
- Participation in a cross-cultural internship, usually experienced in a semester abroad program
- Maintenance of a portfolio recording the student's ongoing development
- Participation in a wide variety of clinical/field experiences

Originally, national accreditation was optional for NC programs, which needed only the state's approval.

North Carolina is now one of only three states requiring NCATE (national) approval.

Chairperson of the Education Studies Department Deborah Roose added that those departments still in the program are meeting the new requirements "out of the goodness of their hearts." She feels that if Guilford College as a whole wants to be involved, it needs to give those departments additional support.

IDS debate

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and that they be assigned to advisers in the departments in which they intend to major or in which they are interested..."

In his memo to the Clerk's Committee and Faculty on the subject, he expresses concern that the proposed course, like its predecessor, would be a hindrance rather than a benefit to student. Added course load, he feels, delays the decided major from taking courses essential to his or her study. Also, those destined to change their major are better off doing so early in their aca-

International Dinner

Club seeks to increase awareness with event

Ashley Clifton
Staff Writer

The International Relations Club will hold its annual International Dinner Saturday, Feb. 8 in Sternberger Auditorium.

Dinner guests have either purchased tickets or signed up to prepare a foreign food dish for the affair.

"A lot of people signed up to cook, as well as the club members," said Rina Luther, who is in charge of ticket sales.

"Even some faculty members are opening up their houses for the club to prepare food."

Local stores such as The Fresh Market have also donated food for the event.

Entertainment will reflect the club's promotion of international awareness. Latin students will perform a traditional Latin dance.

International students from places such as Japan and Brazil will also perform pieces on the piano and guitar.

Sweet Diversion, an a cappella gospel group, will also participate in the entertainment.

ademic careers.

Because of the open-ended nature of the program and Guilford's "imaginative faculty," Carroll questioned the intended similarity of the courses: "More commonality could be achieved by restoring compulsory weekly chapel."

Since time restraints prevented many from speaking, another meeting has been scheduled for Feb. 12, 3-4 p.m. The Curriculum Committee will take suggestions and opinions expressed at the meeting into account.

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ALSO, February 19 is the quote deadline for submissions and changes.

Any questions? Contact *THE QUAKER*
ext.2609 or 2613.