

Curriculum Changes Coming

By Andy Behl

After 10 years, the tradition of January term classes at Mars Hill will come to a close. According to Dr. Richard Hoffman, academic vice-president, the faculty has voted to drop the January term effective June 1, 1982. This is a result of the loss of interest on the part of the students. The change will also have an effect on the regular semester as well. Mars Hill will be converting from a 4-1-4 calendar to a conventional semester calendar beginning next school year. A 3-2 class system will also come into effect next year.

Under the 3-2 system, classes will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and will count 3 credit hours. Classes that meet on Tuesday and Thursday will count 2 credit hours. The 10 am hour on Tuesday and Thursday will be left open for meetings and other events. Some courses, mostly those that have labs, will still count 4 credit hours.

The basic programs will be the same in each department, and this type of program encourages students to get a minor in the same department or a different one. The six competences will remain the same, according to Dr. Hoffman. But the six assessment teams will be discontinued and replaced by a general studies council.

This council will be composed of the coordinators of the general studies competence areas, one representative from the curriculum committee, and one from the admissions and academic standards committee. The academic dean will be the chairman for this council.

Then, over the following 16 months, there will be a study of the curriculum and the findings will be reported to the faculty in the Spring of 1983.

Other changes that will affect this conversion will be the addition of one

week to the spring semester, and the reduction of total hours needed for graduation.

"With this new semester system, we will be encouraging students to get a double major or minor so they may have a broader education," states Dr. Hoffman. "We needed to rethink the curriculum, and this seemed to be the best solution."


Students who want to become involved in the changes will have an opportunity to work with the study committee.

Other topics that may change the curriculum will be the addition of a master's degree. Mars Hill is now exploring the idea of a master's degree in elementary and intermediate education as well as music. However, these programs are only in the discussion phase. The college is also thinking about increasing the computer science program, but this too is in the discussion phase.

NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Effective June 1, 1982)

- 1983 (current juniors)
136 semester hours including 2 January Terms
- 1984 (sophomores)
132 semester hours including 1 January Term
- 1985 (freshman)
132 semester hours including 1 January Term
- 1986
128 semester hours

Transfer students entering MHC in 1981 will be required to have 1 January Term and 132 semester hours.



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New Media Center To Open

By Andy Behl

Many people on campus do not know what is being built on the corner across from the library (does anyone know where that is?) This new building will be the Marlene Reader Harris Media Center which will house all of the media services that are now in the basement of the library. According to Anne Davidson, Director of the Media Center, "Everything is going on schedule and we plan to move into the new building at the end of January Term."

On December 4 at 1:30 p.m., the Board of Trustees will be on campus to have their annual meeting and will dedicate the building at that time. This is the first building on campus that is truly energy efficient, and has already won two awards for its design.

Two sides of the building are covered with dirt and most of the roof is also covered. This is a passive solar heating system. The windows face south, and will catch the sun during the winter in the afternoons. This will help cut the cost of heating.

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In Remembrance . . .

Mars Hill College and the local community have suffered great losses so far this year in the deaths of four important people from the college. We are all saddened by their departure.

Mark "Strawberry" Hoyt
Student



Jim Wells
Student



Kathleen Wallin
Former Assistant Manager, Mars Hill
College Bookstore.

Don Caldwell, Sr.
Former Manager, Mars Hill College
Cafeteria

