Rebuilding The Village

Changes to Global Village Requirements Forthcoming

By Sherah-Leigh Zehr
Contributing Writer

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NEWS

Recently, the faculty approved a plan for the revision of the global village requirements. Beginning next fall, these changes will force departments to think creatively about making this new program work, said University Registrar Dave Detrow.

The changes are being made to ensure that EMU’s core curriculum can meet the educational needs of students. It is not small undertaking for the committee, lead by Undergraduate Academic Dean Marie Morris and a group of faculty members.

Detrow said that the key concern when revising the plans was to ensure that students can still graduate within four years. He noted that the education faculty, “does not want to create any limits for students” because they keep reminding the committee of constraints and restrictions all possible changes may have.

One of the most drastic changes will be to cut what is currently called First Year Experience (FYE). Beginning next fall, incoming freshmen will be required to take a three credit course called “Academics 101,” which is designed to ensure students think about what they have learned in high school and what they must learn at EMU.

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"Students can always choose to meet the new requirements," said Detrow. "There is a course of action that you can enroll in and those are the requirements you must graduate with." According to Detrow, one goal of the new curriculum is to have smaller classes. The program is also designed to give students more connections between the disciplines. "We don't want it to be the 'all or nothing,'" he explained. "Students will be classified with the level they enter and will be expected to fulfill those requirements, not the new ones.

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"We cover two areas, faith and cross-cultural, that other institutions don't require." said first-year Amy Umbel, who is a member of the local area. "I came here because I thought it would be a good chance to come to EMU." she added.

According to Ann Herberger, core curriculum coordinator for the Lilly Project, "We cover two areas, faith and cross-cultural, that other institutions don't require." Students will have the option to up-grade their curriculum based on the development and availability of the new courses, which emphasize the mission of EMU and important academic skills, will aim to develop critical thinking, writing, and creative processes. The second part, the distributive area, will include experiential art and literature among other components.

Don't be turning people in for offenses." According to the years, said, "[Being a CA] affects you a little more to the EMU guidelines they agreed to." Jared Stoltzfus, a CA in Maplewood, believes the main responsibility of a CA is to be a support for students, a resource for them if they are having problems.

"I wanted to be a CA because I thought [the drop in Mennonite enrollment] is okay, because diversity is excellent," said first-year Amanda Maust. "I came here to be under a Mennonite influence," she said. "I want the influence of Mennonite in my life and to foster Mennonite ideals and principles.

"I was interested in having people of different backgrounds and deal with changes is a heavy responsibility. Many students believe being a CA is an easy job, but when current student leaders began detailing their responsibilities, it became obvious that there has to be more motivation than a pay-check in feeling fulfilled. "I wanted to be a CA because I thought it would be a good experience," said Sophie More." said Stephanie Vansyckle, a sophomore in Elmwood. "I wanted to have freshmen so that I could help them get used to the college lifestyle. Sometimes it feels like a lot of responsibility and it can take a lot of your time."

Residence Life is preparing to begin CA recruitment for next year. The application process to become a CA includes an extensive application, recommendation, a preliminary workshop, individual interviews and an end of the year training session. More information is available in the Residence Life office next to the Wellness Suite.