

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

APRIL 25, 1986

INTER OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

856-21

TO: Members of the Academic Standards & Events Committee

FROM: Barbara Brothers, Chair (ENGLISH)

SUBJECT: Minutes of the April 21st 86 meeting (4 p.m.)

Members Present: J. Conser, D. Rost, P. Baldino, L. Heal, R. Mitchell,
G. Tribble, B. Brothers, R. Tabak

1. Minutes of the April 14th approved.
2. Questionnaire approved; finished questionnaire is attached.
The questionnaire has been duplicated and is being sent to
all University Department Chairs.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 12, MONDAY, at 4:00 P.M. in the English Dept.
CONFERENCE ROOM

TO: Departmental Chairmen

DATE: April 21, 1986

FROM: Barbara Brothers (English)
Chair/Academic Standards & Events

SUBJECT: University requirement in an "other cultural study"

Last November, the Senate Executive Committee referred to us a section of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Black Studies Program for our consideration and recommendation. The pertinent section reads: "The Senate Academic Standards and Events Committee should investigate the possibility of a University requirement in an 'other cultural study,' be it historical or contemporary in perspective." After some preliminary deliberations, it is the consensus of this committee that such a requirement would enhance the undergraduate experience of our students and, hence, should be enacted. [NOTE: This requirement would not increase the total number of hours required in the humanities and social studies.] Thus, it is essential that we now solicit the views of the faculty on this issue before proceeding. Please discuss this matter with your departmental colleagues and respond to the following questions by May 9, 1986.

1. Do you believe that there should be a requirement that every student take a course or courses stressing an "other cultural study"?

2. This committee has tentatively defined "other culture" "to be a country or culture other than Western or a U.S. Subculture other than mainstream U.S. history; areas would include humanities or social studies; focus would be on understanding the present either through a twentieth-century period designation or through a survey that includes the twentieth century". If your definition differs from ours, how would you define "other cultural study"?

3. Should the emphasis be historical in perspective, contemporary, or both?

4. (A) What courses from your department already in the

Bulletin would satisfy your definition of such a course? (B) This committee's definition (if there is a difference)?

5. How many courses of this nature (assumed to be 4 credit hours each) would you recommend for a minimum number? Maximum?

6. If there were such a requirement, what problems do you anticipate for your students?

7. Would you support such a requirement in the Senate?

8. Other comments?