

May 6, 1966

PITZER COLLEGE

MAY 11 1966

DEAN OF THE FACULTY

UNGRADED CLASSES? Curriculum Committee has recommended to College Council that Tutorials next year be on a credit or no credit basis. At their next meeting they will consider the possibility of allowing a certain number of elective courses to be on the same basis. Should this be restricted to Juniors and Seniors; or only to courses outside the students field of concentration?

GERMAN STUDENTS ARISE! Pitzer has no German instructor, and next year German courses at the other colleges will be closed to intercollegiate registration. If you want to continue (or begin) German, call, write, or phone the Dean of Faculty or a member of the Executive Committee, and politely but firmly insist that a German professor must be hired!

THE SYMBOLIC SYSTEMS REQUIREMENT has been formally done away with, and no other requirement is currently being considered to replace it.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IS NO LONGER REQUIRED. P.E. classes will be offered, and a student may count up to two units of P.E. toward her graduation requirements. Mrs. Tidgewell will be offering a seminar in the relationship of motor development and coordination to learning skill.

QUORUM ESSENTIAL AT TOWN MEETING, Monday, May 9. The Town Meeting will be considering amendments to the By-laws concerning such things as the relative power role of Town Meeting, the nature of the Review Board Policy Committee, and Student Services Committee, and the procedures of College and Community Council. COME!!!

SCHOLARSHIPS for RETURNING STUDENTS: "If there has to be a decision made as to whom to offer scholarship money-----a returning student barely getting along or an entering student with great potential, which should be chosen? Admissions and Financial Aid Committee will present this question to College Council and to the Faculty for discussion.

WHO WILL BE NEXT YEARS COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN? Sign-up sheets have been posted in Sanborn and Holden Halls. All interested in these important positions should inscribe their names thereupon!

Eleanor Dart

Thank you to the committees who have been faithfully sending me minutes throughout the recent and regrettable period of silence.

This "sound off" is, ironically, a criticism of "sounding off." The ear drum is supposedly a sensitive anatomical feature, but the blatant misuse of the Sanborn P.A. system these recent weeks has unnecessarily increased pressure on many of our audial nerves. Academic strain is one thing. and attempts at dorm studying need not the constant distraction of rough, repetitive and coercive general announcements. Spring Sing efforts should have started with a campaign to soften announcements. When telephone conversations must be discontinued due to a blaring P.A., we should really ask ourselves: Dona Nobis Pacem*for what?

Sarah Wiley

*Sanborn Spring Sing Song
(Give Us Peace)

ACHTUNG!!!

The crossroads to Africa Program at Pitzer is sponsoring a talent show on May 27. The money will be used by the Crossroaders for the coming summer. Anyone interested in performing please contact Pam Ormsbee or Judy Ostendorff. Conflict with term papers and studying for exams will be minimal.

The Summer Independent Study Program

Beginning this summer, Pitzer students will be able to participate in a program of independent directed studies which will, we believe, introduce a novel element of flexibility and an entirely new dimension to the curriculum. In essence, summer directed studies take the following form: In May, a student contacts a faculty member who is willing to act as her director. Together they fill out a form provided by the Registrar's Office, specifying in as much detail as possible the subject and procedure of the directed study. The form goes to the Dean of the Faculty for final approval.

Normally the student and her director will meet several times in May so that the student is well launched by the time she leaves Claremont for the summer. It is in the summer that the student will do the greatest part of her work. Upon return in September, she and her director will meet a number of times to discuss her research. Final evaluation will take place in October.

Two general types of independent studies are possible. In the first, the student has a series of works to read and analyze and a number of papers to prepare. In the second, her activities over the summer (her work in voter registration, her travels in France, etc.) form an essential part of the study. She might then be expected to keep a journal or to write papers on problems she may be confronting first-hand. Such "activities-studies" will, we hope, break down the dangerous dichotomy of college studies and "real life".

Let me now anticipate a few questions which may have arisen in your minds:

1. How many credits are attached to a summer directed study? Normally, three. Less, and sometimes more, than three credits may be attached to a specific study. In any case, the exact number of credits the study is to entail should be included in the Registrar's form.
2. How much work will a three-credit study entail? Very roughly speaking, as much as a three-credit course in that field.
3. Is there a fee? No.
4. Are freshmen eligible for such studies? Yes.
5. How many directed studies can one student take over this summer? During this first summer, while, to be quite frank, the faculty and administration are scrutinizing the program's effectiveness, one three-credit study will be the norm. Exceptions will be made for obviously qualified and serious students. In coming summers, a student will be able to take as many directed studies as she can effectively handle.
6. Will this program allow students who so choose to take less than five courses during a following semester? Yes. A student who wishes to concentrate on a few courses in a given semester will now be able to do so.

Eventually, it will be possible for a student who has done a number of summer directed studies to take a semester off and just read.

7. What grading system will be employed in summer directed studies? The same as in other independent studies -- Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit. Students desiring to be evaluated on some other basis -- for instance on the traditional ABC system -- should discuss this with their directors before the study is begun.

8. What requirements do such studies cover? They naturally cover part of the eighteen hours of independent studies requirement. They may also cover particular distribution (humanities, social science, etc.) or concentration requirements. Precisely what requirements above and beyond independent study requirements a given study will cover ought to be clearly understood by the student and her director at the very beginning of a study.

9. How will such studies appear on a student's record? Normally they will be recorded in the following semester's (i.e., fall's) course record.

10. Does the fact that the student will not normally see her director until September pose any special problems? Evidently. If it is pre-arranged, students may be able to correspond with their directors over the summer. The essential thing is, however, for the student to understand clearly and distinctly before she leaves in June what she is to do and how she is to do it.

11. How should a student approach a faculty member to ask him to become her independent study director? In seven words, with some sort of idea worked out. Don't, in other words, just wander in and ask someone for a directed study in 'English'. Think in advance of what you would like to do. Is it William McGonagale's influence on nineteenth century Scottish poetry? If so, say so. Work out a plan in advance. Nine chances out of ten, it will be modified, but at least you and your director will have had something to work on.

12. How can one get further information on summer directed studies? Call me either at ext. 3069 or 624-8423.

John Evans