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Review of MFA Results and Report on Use of Results

Bachelor of General Studies
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Reviewing the results of the 2001-2002 assessment activities indicate areas of strengths and weaknesses within the Bachelor of General Studies program. One area of strength was in the number of graduates who feel the satisfied with their general education knowledge such as reading, writing and speaking. Additionally, most of the respondents were satisfied with the overall quality of the BGS degree program. For example, only 12.3% of the students responded with 1 or 2, meaning that 87.7% responded with 3 or better. While this is a strength, further study also shows that in the 1999-2000 survey, 94.9% responded with 3 or better, indicating a 7% drop in student satisfaction level during the last two years.

In the 1999-2000 Exit survey report completed in 2002 by Ms. Hite, she noted two areas of concern: “usefulness of advice” and “concern for students” which both had 20% of the students responding with a 1 answer. In the present survey, there is no real change in those numbers. When looking at both the 1 and 2 responses, 35% of the students voiced dissatisfaction in both areas. In 2002, Ms. Hite explained that she had been the only advisor, overworked with many majors, and often unavailable because she was also teaching. She expected the problem to be alleviated by the relocation to a larger office and the addition of a secretary and 2 adjunct advisors.

Questions 20 and 22 also concerned me. 27% of the students felt dissatisfied with the help/encouragement they received from faculty with regard to further educational opportunities. Additionally, 35.3% were dissatisfied with the encouragement regarding finding employment. These responses concern faculty advisors as well as faculty members throughout the university since General Studies majors represent a diverse group of students.

With the revised major field assessment plan filed January 2003, we expect at least 50% of the GS graduates to be employed or accepted into a graduate program. The 2001-2002 results show only 35.3% meeting the criteria. This is also an area that will need to be monitored closely.

Effective June 1, the program was administratively moved to the former College of Basic Studies, re-organized as the College of General Studies and numerous recommendations are being considered. (1) To increase student satisfaction with the program, we propose having an advisory committee study the curriculum, compare it to other programs in the state, and make suggestions concerning the program. (2) To address student dissatisfaction with usefulness of advice and concern for students, additional advisors (faculty/counselors also teaching Career

Planning) will assist with advising the students. Also, (3) to ensure that there is positive change, we suggest surveying the students at the end of the first year for their feedback and using the data to determine if we are making progress. (4) Finally, to assist students with information concerning further educational opportunities and assistance in finding employment, we propose numerous changes. One idea is to collaborate with graduate programs campus-wide to create an informative flyer with information concerning graduate school in various areas (requirements, application deadlines, etc.). Another idea involves encouraging students to enroll in CPL 304 so they can learn valuable self-marketing skills. Finally, we will study incorporating additional certificate programs and internship opportunities that should assist students with seeking employment.