

American studies stands still

Lack of funds has shut off, at least temporarily, an American studies major approved last spring by the College of Arts and Sciences. Only one course is being offered in the American Studies program this semester.

M.D. George, Arts and Sciences dean, said he hopes the major will be offered next year, but it will depend on adequate legislative funding.

The purpose of the program is to examine connections between "civilization's complex web of people, ideas and things," according to a report from the program's executive committee.

The American Studies major is highly experimental in nature, in that its structure is "described in terms of the development of competency rather than in terms of credit hours," according to the report.

Specifically, a student, with the help of an advisor, would draw up and complete his own program of study.

Professor Robert Huff said after consultation among themselves, the faculty for American Studies decided to hire a director for the program.

"We're kind of marking time," Huff said, because the funds were not available to hire someone to fill the position.

Students contemplating an American Studies major should either not declare a major this year or move into an integrated studies program, according to Norman Hostetler, chairman of the program's executive committee.

Hostetler advised students with less than two years of college left not to consider an American Studies major.

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