

Centennial's credit face faculty review

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Where have we gone?

That's the question facing the Centennial Education Program (CEP) as its fifth year review by the Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate approaches.

Centennial's credit authorization expires at the end of 1974-75 at which time an evaluation by the Faculty Senate will be made to determine whether credit should be extended.

The College of Arts and Sciences presently waives 48 hours of group requirements to CEP students. The Centennial course provides six credit hours per semester acting in lieu of the traditional requirements.

Several evaluations of Centennial have been made in the past most prominent of which was a Three-Year Follow-Up of Experimental College Students by Ted Beck, former CEP senior fellow, Larry Braskamp, professor of educational measurements, Robert Brown, counseling center director, and Susan Welch, political science professor, whose findings concluded "the program's impact was generally more apparent on social and attitudinal dimensions than on academic and cultural ones."

The three-year evaluation has been criticized on the basis of its small sample. Gene Harding, CEP senior fellow, said. But a larger sample wasn't obtainable because of the limited size of CEP.

"The study showed different ongoing behavior exhibited by long-term CEP students," said Harding. "CEP students were shown to read more, were politically active and a high number achieved scholastically," he said. "Out of last year's 44 Phi Beta Kappas, senior scholastic honorary, 11 were CEP members."

The study was based on the 1969-70 freshman CEP class of 125 randomly selected applicants. A control group of 181 non-selected freshmen applicants was compared to them.

Higher scores

Both groups were selected because they "had higher Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, were more liberal in their political and social attitudes, tended to be less vocationally oriented, and as a group were more interested in literary and dramatic activities than the general entering Nebraska freshman," the study reported.

The study found that non-CEP students and CEP students "appeared to be much alike but in some ways non-CEP students were less involved in the cultural and academic activities of the University."

According to the three-year study, long-term CEP students "were best characterized by a higher degree of excitement about learning," a tendency to talk more frequently and more widely with a non-advisor faculty member, a higher degree of participation in some kinds of cultural and political activities, and a greater interest in new academic opportunities at the University."

Turns people on

"Centennial is not here to fail people, but here to turn people on," Harding said.

Originally conceived as an experimental and innovative unit within the University, Centennial has become "stabilized" and "institutionalized" according to Harding.

He said, "Centennial is not jumping into any wild ideas just to try them." Stabilization has occurred in programs, staffing, size and project orientation. Patterns of increasing student and

community involvement and student study abroad are developing, he said.

Harding said the role of Centennial in the University is one of providing more alternatives such as the integrated, University and American Studies programs which received much of their impetus from Centennial's inception as well as by the strong efforts of both students and faculty.

Make-your-own structure

It is also an experimental place, Harding said. Projects are "informal, with a make-your-own structure" where teachers can "develop their own skills and new ways," he said.

"Centennial is different, it's a place to come for students who are really alienated," Harding said. There, students are encouraged to become self-directed, able to choose options and shown how the system can be useful, he said.

However, CEP hasn't always pleased all the faculty. "Some faculty who have taught here thought it was a waste of time and have left disappointed," Harding said. "I'm finding more satisfaction than expected. Students get involved with the program and internalize the learning."

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12% crime clearance rate for UNL campus security

There were 140 crimes reported on campus during March, April and May, but only 17 were cleared through arrests for a clearance rate of 12 per cent.

Gail Gade, chief of campus security, said he would like to obtain a clearance rate of more than 20 per cent.

Gade said a 25 per cent clearance rate means a good job for any police agency.

Gade said the reason for the low clearance rate on campus could be attributed to several causes. One problem, he said was that victims don't respond quickly enough after the crime. Cold trails most often lead to nothing, he said.

Lack of evidence is another problem, Gade said. "If someone steals a coat hanging in the Union, unless someone has seen the coat taken, we'll have no clues."

Follow-up system

Gade said campus security

has a follow-up system where a victim is re-contacted after the first questioning when the crime is reported.

Gade said most victims are contacted within a week by the same officer to ask additional questions and to inform the victim of the status of the investigation.

"It's difficult to run each complaint down, but it's our official policy," Gade said.

Gade said covering a campus is "a little tougher" than standard police work because the campus police are responsible for inside and outside of buildings. He said at least five officers are on duty inside buildings each night.

46 officers

Campus security has 46 commissioned officers, who are divided into four shifts. Gade said 10 officers are usually on duty from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Another five or six officers patrol campus in cars from

3:30 p.m. to midnight. Five building officers begin checking on buildings at 8:30 p.m.

And there are five or six on call from 11:30 p.m. to 8 a.m.

During the school year four officers are assigned to the dormitories with an additional 30 or 40 student officers who work part-time in the dormitories.

Locks cause a major problem, Gade said. Either the doors are unlocked or a criminal may have a master key or a key made from a University key.

Gade said that a new program will be initiated in the fall by the name "Operation Get Acquainted", where officers will meet with students in the dormitories. The purpose of the program, according to Gade, is to make students more cognizant of the fact that there are people around who are going to steal things.



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