

Regional Planning Program Receives Accreditation

The administration of Capitol Campus has been informed that another of its programs has received accreditation by a national professional accrediting association.

Dr. Robert E. McDermott, Provost, has announced the Regional Planning Program has been accredited by the American Institute of Planners. Capitol's Planni Program is the first in the Penn State system to receive this recognition.

Dr. Francis Ferguson, chairman of the program reported that accreditation is based on a number of factors including an adequate number of full-time faculty members who are qualified professional planners, curriculum, and sufficient administrative support. To qualify for the latter, the program chairman must be directly accountable to the top administrative officer on campus.

The Regional Planning Program is a five term program which leads to the degree of Master of Regional Planning. It was first initiated at Capitol in September, 1967, and was the third formal graduate program offered at the campus. Since that time, the graduate course offerings have been expanded and master's degrees are now

offered in six fields.

From its inception, the program has attempted to focus on the needs of planning in the Harrisburg-York-Lancaster area. Courses are scheduled at hours which enable these individuals to obtain their professional degree on a part-time evening basis while working full-time in planning occupations.

Program administrators now are studying various curriculum options which will allow students to develop a specialty within a general planning framework.

In commenting on the program, Dr. Ferguson said, "An increased need for planning is manifested at all levels of government. Not only do we hope to prepare planners to meet this need, but our program is also providing services to outside agencies and institutions.

"We currently are developing plans for the Evelyn Frederick Health Center which will be built in Millersburg as a part of the family medicine curriculum of Penn State's Milton S. Hershey Medical School. We also are conducting a study in computer mapping of crime and accidents in the York area for the Pennsylvania State Police."

DTK STAGES GRAD SEMINAR

by Bob Bonaker

There will be a Graduate School Information Seminar staged on campus on Thursday, February 22 beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

The session will be conducted by Capitol's Alpha Chapter of Delta Tau Kappa, the international social science honor society. The seminar will be a three part program.

The initial portion of the program will be conducted by Counseling Center representatives Marian Krieger and Ed Beck. They will explain the numerous basic steps that should be utilized when applying to grad schools.

Then, Peggy O'Hara and

Patricia L. Young of the Financial Aid Office will elaborate on the ins and outs of graduate assistantships, student loans, scholarships and other areas of graduate financial aid.

At approximately 2:30 p.m., students will be able to meet with faculty from the different programs in classrooms to be announced at a later date. The faculty will reportedly discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various graduate institutions (including law schools) and their relevancy to a particular field of learning.

The seminar was organized by Elaine Parker, Vice-President of Programs for Delta Tau Kappa.

Rule Change Helps Failing Student

by Robert W. Bonaker

Dr. Robert J. Brown, Associate Dean of Faculty, has announced a significant change in grading procedures, specifically failing grades.

The change in University Rule M-3 states that failing grades will not be figured into the cumulative grade point average upon repetition of the course in which the unsatisfactory mark was achieved. However, contrary to a previous statement released by Brown, the failing mark will remain on the transcript.

The new policy will go into effect with the Spring Term, 1973. Anyone who has received a 'D' or and 'F' in any course may repeat that course in subsequent terms and only the higher grade will be included in the GPA. For example, if a student received an 'F' in SO SC 365 in the coming Spring Term, then receives a 'D' upon repetition of the course in the

Fall Term, 1973, and repeats again with an 'A' in the Winter Term, 1974, only the 'A' will count for the GPA but the other grades will remain on the transcript.

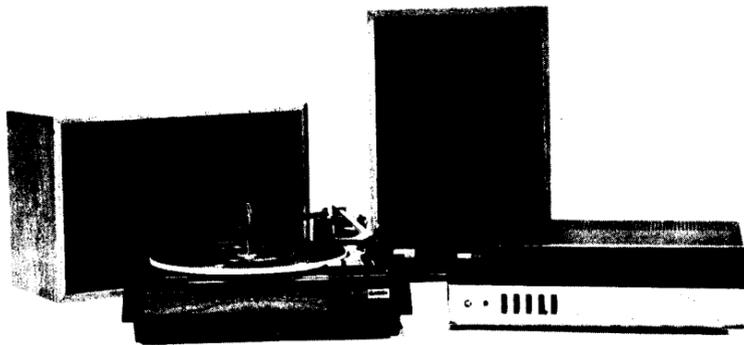
The new policy is not retroactive, according to Brown.

He warns "that students opting for a Special Topics course should understand that if the course is never repeated an 'F' can never be erased."

Brown also explained he is concerned about "... what happens now to the students when we approve course changes to take place in the middle of the academic year. For example, we have just processed a large package of courses. Any of those students who failed any of those courses that were dropped will have no chance to remove the 'F' in any of those courses that would have been offered in Spring or Summer."

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