

Humanities students question requirements

Sharon Barris
Capital Times Staff

A recent humanities open forum covered student concerns ranging from book costs to poorly lit hallways.

The forum, sponsored by the Student Government Association, attracted program coordinators from communications, secondary education, humanities/business, literature, and general humanities, as well as Humanities Division Head, William Mahar.

Lori Gring, a junior humanities senator, asked why so many books are required for the western tradition classes that humanities majors are required to take. Gring said one professor required eight or nine books for the class, but only read one selection from two of the books.

Troy Thomas, general coordinator of the humanities program, explained that

many instructors require numerous books because they want students to read primary sources, not just bits and pieces.

Patricia Johnson, coordinator of the literature program, had other reasons for requiring numerous books.

"You're buying the book, not just for translation, but also for the input of someone who is sensitive to the language it was originally written in," she said.

Gring also asked why the three-semester class could not be consolidated into one.

Theodora Graham, coordinator of the secondary education/English program, said a committee is considering revising the western tradition series into two courses. However, this is just a discussion topic, and no plans have been made at this point, Graham said.

One humanities student asked why

secondary education English students have a British literature requirement.

"The requirement is standard among most colleges," Graham said. "Furthermore, English majors should have a knowledge of both English and British literature."

The students also asked why the class is not offered in the fall as well as the spring, since it is required for graduation. Graham stated the class will be offered this fall.

Angela West, a senior humanities senator, asked if a specific grade point average is required to qualify for an internship position.

Communications Coordinator Peter Parisi said the division looks for a strong record and the basic required course work for the major, but there is no specific GPA requirement.

"You are reflecting the institution, as well as getting the experience," Parisi said.

Graduate student William Stoner questioned the process for selecting entries that are printed in Penn State Harrisburg's literary arts magazine, *Tarnhelm*. He said he has entered many of his own pieces, but none have ever been printed.

"I see the same names all the time," Stoner said. "And they're often *Tarnhelm* staff."

Graham said *Tarnhelm* is a student club, and the humanities faculty does not select the pieces. A humanities secretary receives the selections and gives them to the *Tarnhelm* editors without any names on them, she said. The magazine's staff then rates them on a four-star system, and only the secretary ever knows the name of the writer.

Time budgeting skills explained in seminar

Matt Hunt
Capital Times Staff

How to budget your time between work, school, family and social activities was the focus of a time management seminar on March 3.

Felicia Brown-Haywood, coordinator of the student support programs and minority student affairs, led students and faculty through exercises focusing on how they spend their time. When she asked what activities took up most of their time, the answers included sleeping, working, school, family, socializing, studying and eating.

Brown-Haywood also gave participants in the seminar a test to determine if they are "pressed for time." The group discussed the results and how they could alleviate problems caused by poorly budgeted time.

The basis of the seminar was that people should consider four things when budgeting time: goal setting, organization, listing tasks, and doing them.

Haywood-Brown said the combination of the four equals the "G.O.L.D." principles.

Taking them in order, Haywood-Brown told the audience how to follow the principles. For the first step of goal setting, she said, is deciding what goals need to be accomplished.

"You need to say, 'How should I prioritize this?'" she said. "Decide which is the most important thing out of what you need to get done."

For the second step of organizing, Haywood-Brown recommended keeping a log of activities. Audience members were given blank time-log sheets as example of how to log time. She also suggested calendars as a way to organize time.

The important third step of listing what needs to be done was also discussed. Haywood-Brown said people who procrastinate need to make more structured lists than those who tend to do things in a timely fashion.

And lastly, the final step, doing things. Haywood-Brown said people must take what they've learned in the first three steps and use them to do things.

She closed the seminar with a reminder of the importance of budgeting time.

"It's important to continually analyze

what you're doing with your time," Haywood-Brown said.

Bill Stoner, a graduate student in

behavioral studies, said he found the workshop very helpful.

"I've learned a lot," he said.



Photo by Elin Marcel

Dennis Buterbaugh, right, a reporter for 27 News, interviews Penn State Harrisburg graduate student La-Verna Fountain during a live news broadcast in front of the Olmsted Building on March 2. Buterbaugh was questioning Fountain about the Pennsylvania State Police policy regarding high-speed pursuit, after a death during a high-speed police pursuit in Cumberland County raised questions. Fountain is the director of public information for the Pennsylvania State Police, and attends night classes, working on her master's degree in communications.

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students per computer." He explained there are 75 computers in the public access areas on the third floor of the Olmsted Building.

Viswanath said another 75 computers are also located at PSH, but they aren't as easily accessible to students. If they were, the ratio would be more like 23 students per computer.

He said he is aware of increased usage of his facilities, and believes computer availability depends on the time of day.

"Saturdays and Sundays are the best times to come into the lab," he said. Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 10:30 p.m. Sunday. Viswanath also suggested coming in weekdays between 8 and 10 a.m.

Faculty council member Andy Lau, representing the school of science, engineering and technology, will meet with computer committee members and Viswanath to seek clarification of some of the guidelines in the report.

Dishner said the problem is minimal, but solutions are being looked at. He referred to a potential computer scheduling problem foreseen for next fall. He said he'll ask the two people involved to sit down and try to solve the situation.

Another issue discussed was a request by a student group to acquire a location on campus to sell used books. The proposal, contained in a report by the bookstore committee, met with mixed reaction.

One person said book resale "is a very bad practice," because he believes students should keep books for future reference. He said the group wouldn't be encouraging quality education practices if they endorsed the proposal.

However, Blumberg said, "I couldn't have gotten through college without selling my books."

Hudson said it was really a "moot point," since the council does not have jurisdiction over how and where books are sold. He said the report would be forwarded to the administration without comment on the issue.