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MEMO

DATE: September 18, 2007
TO: All Faculty
FROM: General Education Committee
RE: Program Review Results: Cohort

Hopefully, you have had a chance to read and celebrate Westmont's results on the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) outlined in my previous memo.

The GE Committee also has been working with a cohort of students entering Westmont as we began the "new" GE curriculum. Each semester we have polled these students on their interaction with the program. Although this data is of the self-report survey variety and so is not highly valued by WASC, student experiences are important for our own purposes. Here is a brief overview of the trends we noticed from last year's reports.

Observations:

- Our students are finding/noticing many connections between their General Education classes as well as connections to major courses.
- Although they have not always wanted to take GE courses, they are appreciative of the courses once they are in them and speak highly of the Liberal Arts experience. Cohort students compare the Liberal Arts character of a Westmont education very favorably with the types of education that their peers are receiving in other schools.
- While advisors generally were helpful in selecting courses, some advisors did not seem secure in what they were doing. In general, advisors were not a strong source for understanding the goals and philosophy of the overall GE program.
- Cohort students were appreciative of the connections between the individual GE courses and the overall GE curriculum that were made in syllabi and in the initial class sessions. Many wish, however, that connections were more sustained throughout the semester.
- The strongest and most persistent complaint in the lack of sufficient breadth of opportunity for students to fulfill *Serving Society; Enacting Justice*. This complaint seems to be directed especially toward the lack of opportunities within the major.

Suggested Responses

- Rejoice that our students seem to be valuing our Liberal Arts identity and making connections between various areas of study.
 - Michelle Hardley (x6159) runs a series of advising training sessions each spring. Feel free to make use of these sessions as a refresher course. In fact, Michelle would appreciate the perspective that more seasoned faculty could bring to the discussions.
 - Think about ways that you can help your students see the ways your courses are addressing the GE goals through the term.
 - Look for ways you can incorporate a *Serving Society; Enacting Justice* component into one of your courses. Attend the Service-Learning workshop on Sept. 29.
- Stipends are still available!** (See <http://cgi2.westmont.edu/blogs/provost/?cat=14>)
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