To: Faculty Assembly (FA)  
From: Academic Review Committee (ARC) *  
Date: May 24, 2005

Subject: ARC Report #24 to the Faculty Assembly – Summary Report for Academic Year 2004/2005

The following items were excerpted from each of the ARC Reports #16-24 to the FA for the academic year 2004/2005. These reports include ARC activities, decision and information items, and recommendations.

Course Requests – Decision Item  
The ARC reviewed and processed/approved thirty-two (32) course and/or program requests from faculty during the AY 2004/2005. Please refer to the attached Academic Review Committee (ARC) Activity Log - Academic Year 2004/2005 for detailed information.

ARC Report #16 to the Faculty Assembly, June 21, 2004

Courseload Adjustment (CLA) III Final Report – General Education/School Core Model – Information Item  
The ARC is in complete agreement with the overall goals of the CLA III proposal, namely,

   The purpose of general education program is to provide students with critical reading, writing and analytical skills essential to a Liberal Arts education. Students should also gain a foundation in academic areas which will prepare them to further develop in their majors ….

We also believe that it is critical that the goals of Ramapo College’s General Education Program be clearly articulated and effectively communicated to our students.

The ARC has reviewed the CLA III Final Report, dated June 14, 2004, and makes the following statements with regard to it:

   • The ARC is in complete agreement with the CLA III Final Report on eight of the ten General Education units. The ARC is divided on whether the Intercultural North America and International Issues categories should be included in the list of General Education requirements, changed, or eliminated and the subject matter infused throughout the curriculum.

   • First Year Seminar (FYS) – All members believe the FYS is important and should be retained; however, we believe it should be a full unit course.

In summary, the members of the ARC believe that whichever model is approved, it will not be perfect, some faculty will not be satisfied, it will require tinkering as we move into the implementation phase, and the model will no doubt undergo more changes as time goes on. At the same time, the ARC believes it is critical to the successful implementation of the 3-3 Courseload Adjustment plan that the Faculty Assembly not delay the adoption of a revised General Education/School Core Model.

ARC Report #17 to the Faculty Assembly, September 8, 2004

Moratorium on New Courses – Exceptions – Information Item  
In order to meet the goals for the Unit Plan implementation, Acting Provost M. Ecker has declared a moratorium on new courses. M. Ecker asked the ARC to develop guidelines under which exceptions might be granted. The ARC members developed the following guidelines:

 Exceptions may be granted primarily for:
  1. New faculty (hired since September 1, 2003) who need or are required to develop courses in new
program areas.
2. Courses that fill gaps identified in five-year reviews of programs and majors.
3. Courses to be developed under Career Development and Faculty Development grants that have already been approved.
4. Other exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
The Acting Provost supports these guidelines. Exceptions to this moratorium may be brought to the dean for approval (in accordance with ARC procedures), who will then forward them to the Provost’s office for consideration.

MBA Program Suspension – Information Item
In June 2004, the School of Administration & Business (SAB) faculty voted to suspend its MBA program effective the start of the Fall 2004 semester. The Provost agreed with the recommendation from the SAB faculty. It is important to note that the SAB recommendation to suspend the MBA program flowed from its decision again to pursue AACSB accreditation. It became clear that it is a more realistic goal to achieve accreditation at the undergraduate level rather than at the undergraduate/graduate levels. The ARC has reviewed the materials presented and concurs with the SAB faculty and Office of the Provost. Once AACSB accreditation is achieved, the decision to remove the suspension and re-starting the MBA degree program should be reviewed.

Withdrawal Date Deadline Spring Semesters – Information Item
In March 2004, the FA approved a change of moving the withdrawal date deadline from ten calendar weeks to eight calendar weeks. Upon further review, it was noted that the eighth calendar week of the spring semesters is always the spring break. Therefore, in order to be equitable to students and also honor FA wishes, the withdrawal date deadline for spring semesters, only, will be the Friday after the students return from Spring break. This will be eighth class week from the beginning of the semester.

Program Proposal for an Environmental Science Minor – Decision Item
The ARC reviewed a program proposal for an Environmental Science Minor. The program degree level is undergraduate and within the mission designation of the college. During its Five-Year Review the convening group in Environmental Science developed the proposal. Several points of information are offered:

1. There is strong student interest in adding a minor in Environmental Science to their majors.
2. There are increasing multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary interactions in the sciences.
3. Since the major is a relatively small one, this proposed minor would bring additional qualified students into its program, especially in the upper-level courses.
4. The Environmental Science major has been offered over the past 30 years.
5. The minor will require no additional resources (faculty, courses, and facilities).

The proposal has the support of the faculty of the School of Theoretical and Applied Sciences (TAS), its Dean, and the Office of the Provost.

Resolution
After review, the ARC recommends the FA approve the Program Proposal for an Environmental Science Minor. [Passed]

ARC Report #18 to the Faculty Assembly, October 6, 2004

Study Abroad Programs (SAP) Course Syllabi Review – Information Item
The ARC reviewed eight (8) Study Abroad Programs (SAP) course syllabi with regard to their conformance with the Ramapo College Course Syllabus Guidelines adopted by the Faculty Assembly in March 2004. ARC determined that two course syllabi did not conform to the guidelines and six course syllabi were deemed acceptable pending minor revisions. The ARC has requested J. Dallon, Director of SAP, to work with the respective faculty and revise these syllabi so that they are in conformance with College guidelines.
The ARC has requested that J. Dallon resubmit the SAP course syllabi to ARC for a final review by October 15, 2004. Those SAP courses not in compliance with College guidelines will not be offered in the future.

ARC Report #19 to the Faculty Assembly, November 10, 2004

Study Abroad Programs (SAP) Course Syllabi Review – Information Item
The ARC has completed its review of all submitted Study Abroad Programs (SAP) course syllabi. ARC determined that, pending minor revisions, they were in conformance with the Ramapo College Course Syllabus Guidelines adopted by the Faculty Assembly in March 2004. ARC thanks J. Dallon, Director of Study Abroad Programs, the program directors, and Study Abroad faculty for their assistance on this project.

ARC Report #18 to the Faculty Assembly (FA), October 6, 2004

General Education Program – 100-Level Foreign Language Courses – Information Item
The ARC members discussed how foreign language courses could be included in the newly passed General Education Program. After extensive discussion and review of the General Education category descriptions, the ARC determined that 100-level foreign language courses do not fulfill any categories. However, upper-level foreign language courses appear to fulfill some of the proposed General Education categories.

General Education Program – Categorization of Courses – Information Item
The ARC has requested that convening groups, via the Deans, identify courses that they believe fit into each category of the newly passed General Education Program and submit them to their ARC representatives by December 1, 2004. Please note that it is the responsibility of the convening groups and schools to determine where a course may fit within school core categories. Also note, several categories previously in the old General Education (e.g., Values/Ethics) are now, under CLA, recommended for the school core.

General Education Program – “Topics in…” Categories – Information Item
ARC is concerned that designated upper-level courses in the “Topics in…” categories may have hidden (i.e., non-General Education) prerequisites. The ARC has voiced this concern to the Coordinating Implementation of Restructuring and Curriculum into Units Interim Task Force (CIRCUIT).

ARC Report #20 to the Faculty Assembly, December 1, 2004

New General Education Program – “Topics in …” Categories - Information Item
The ARC discussed at length the “Topics In…” categories of the new General Education Program which are designed for students outside of their schools. ARC members are concerned that these categories will include courses at the 300 level, most of which have prerequisites. This has the potential of creating hidden prerequisites for students, since most existing 300-level courses are designed for students within their majors. Either these courses will need to be redesigned or new courses developed for non-majors. This has tremendous implications for faculty resources.

Therefore, the ARC recommends that this concern be discussed by the Schools and a resolution from each School be reported back to ARC via the Deans.

Senior Seminars – Course Substitution Policy – Recommendation
Last year, the Faculty Assembly approved substituting 400-level school interdisciplinary courses and 400-level disciplinary capstone courses, on the authority of the Deans, for the Senior Seminar requirement through August 2005. Since the implementation date for the newly passed General Education Program has been postponed until September 2006, the ARC is requesting that the FA approve the continuation of the course substitution policy, adding the proviso that these courses be writing intensive.
Rationale
Shortages of senior seminar sections over the past year and the pending impact of CLA III recommendations regarding General Education requirements convinced the ARC that this is a prudent measure to ensure that students will be able to fulfill their requirements in a timely way.

Process
The Chair of the ARC will consult with L. Padley, Director of Academic Operations to ensure that an adequate number of Senior Seminars and specific substitutes for Senior Seminars (as recommended by the Deans) are scheduled to meet the needs of graduating seniors. The following list is a sample of approved course substitutes for Senior Seminars:
BBAD 495 Strategic Management
APOL 405 Political Science Seminar
M/SPSY 430 Advanced Topics in Psych
SCHM 450 Special Topics
AHST 410 History Seminar
ALIT 414 Literature Seminar
MSWK 420 Contemporary Social Policy
SENV 414 Environmental Assessment

Resolution
The ARC recommends that the Faculty Assembly approve the continuation of the course substitution policy for Senior Seminars until the newly passed General Education Program has been implemented. The course substitutions must be writing-intensive courses. For more information, please contact A. Romano, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Program.

[Resolution passed]

ARC Report #19 to the Faculty Assembly, November 10, 2005

CIRCUIT (Coordinating Implementation of Restructuring and Curriculum into Units Interim Taskforce) – Information Item
The ARC has been working closely with CIRCUIT to ensure a successful implementation of the Unit Plan. The ARC concurs with CIRCUIT’s posted conversion plan and commends the committee for its fine work. CIRCUIT has referred several policy items to ARC for review: 1) Pass/Fail Grades, 2) Latin Honors, 3) Repeat of Course Grade, 4) General Education Program – Transfer Policies, 5) New Subject Codes/Course Levels, and 6) Deadline for Declaring a Major. The ARC is researching these items and will soon report its recommendations to the Faculty Assembly. The ARC welcomes your comments on these items through your ARC representative.

ARC Report #21 to the Faculty Assembly, February 16, 2005

ARC Course Requests Forms and Procedures – Information Item
In order to assist faculty in preparing syllabi for proposed new courses for the CLA initiative, ARC revised the existing Course Syllabus Guidelines Sheet into a checklist which should facilitate the process and ensure you have included all necessary items. Your ARC representative will work with you and ensure that the course syllabi conform to the Faculty Assembly approved guidelines. Please include a completed Course Syllabus Guidelines Checklist when you submit your course syllabus. We also revised the ARC Course Request Form and streamlined it for the new CLA initiative. A completed course request package should include the following items: 1) Course Syllabus Guidelines Checklist, 2) ARC Course Request Form, and 3) a course syllabus; and be given to the ARC representative for review. Copies of the revised form and checklist will be available on the web or from your ARC representative.
Procedure for Transitioning the Current General Education Courses to the New Courseload Adjustment (CLA) General Education Program – Information Item

The ARC is requesting the faculty, staff and administration support the following procedure:

- The Office of Academic Affairs will provide the Convening Groups, via the Deans, with a set of tables, by discipline, which list the current General Education courses and categories and recommendations as to which category(ies) they may fit in the new CLA General Education program.

- The Deans will distribute the set of tables to their Convening Groups and indicate a return deadline date of early April.

- The Conveners/faculty members will review the tables and determine whether they agree or disagree with the recommendations of the Office of Academic Affairs. If they agree, they will initial next to the CLA General Education Suggested Category (“CLA-GE SUGGEST”). If they disagree, they will enter on the “OTHER” line which CLA General Education category they believe the course should satisfy, provide the course description from the online College Catalog, and attach it to the back of the table. If the course description requires revision, include the new description clearly marked as “revision.”

NOTE: There may be cases where the Office of Academic Affairs could not make a determination as to which General Education category a course belongs. In those cases, the Convening Groups will make the recommendation.

- The Conveners will review the information and sign the form, indicating that it is complete.

- The Conveners will return their packets (i.e., course descriptions where applicable and forms) to their Deans.

- The Deans will forward all the packets from their schools to the Chair of the ARC. The ARC will review them and, if necessary, request further information. ARC will deliver the packets to Office of Academic Affairs for processing.

- Because the CLA General Education program is significantly different from the current General Education program, courses not currently in the General Education program should be reviewed to determine if they could be in included in the new CLA version. Therefore, the whole process would begin again with those courses in the course inventory that are not in the current General Education Program.

The guiding principles in this process are to keep it simple and organized, and to ensure that the Convening Groups and faculty are the principal architects in determining where the courses are placed in the new CLA General Education program. If you need assistance, please ask your ARC representative.
Ramapo College Academic and Curricular Policy Recommendations – Information/Decision Items
ARC reviewed several of the College’s current academic and curricular policies to determine the impact of the CLA initiative on them. During its review, ARC considered the policies of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC) member institutions and four New Jersey State Colleges (i.e., The College of New Jersey, Richard Stockton State College, William Paterson University, and Montclair State University).

ARC has presented the following policy items and recommendations to the FA for a vote:
- New Subject Codes / Course Levels – Recommendation: Change current policy. [Referred back to ARC]

ARC Report #24 to the Faculty Assembly, May 24, 2005

Ramapo College Academic and Curricular Policy Recommendations – Information/Decision Items
ARC has deliberated on the following policy items and presents them to the FA for information:
- Pass/Fail Grade Policy – Recommendation: No change in current policy. Consistent with the researched schools
- Policy on Retaking Courses and the Repeat of Course Grade Policy – Recommendation: No change in current policies. However, the two policies should be integrated for clarity. Consistent with the researched schools.
- Policy on a Date for Declaring a Major – Currently there is no college-wide policy. Recommendation: The current practice of no specific declaration date should be continued. This practice provides students with time to explore different majors. Also, several majors have different declaration dates. Some guidance on choosing a major should be included in the College Catalog.
- General Education Program Transfer Policies – Review pending.

Piloting the Student Opinion of Teaching and Learning Form – Information Item
The revised Student Opinion of Teaching and Learning form was piloted this semester. We asked full professors to volunteer to pilot the survey form in one of their classes. Note: Nineteen (19) full professors piloted the survey form in their classes. The piloted forms will be analyzed this summer. ARC thanks all who contributed to this pilot project.

ARC Academic and Curricular Guidelines Manual – Information Item
As a reminder, and especially for our new faculty members, the Academic & Curricular Guidelines Manual, dated 9/2004, is available in both paper and electronic formats. Please see your ARC representative or school secretary for a copy or download it from the Faculty Assembly web site at http://phobos.ramapo.edu/facassem, or directly from the ARC web site at http://phobos.ramapo.edu/arc. The ARC is in the process of updating the manual to reflect changes required by the CLA proposal. The revised Course Request Package is located at http://phobos.ramapo.edu/arc/meetings/ARC_Course_Request.doc.

Acknowledgements
The members of the ARC appreciate the cooperation and support we have received from the faculty, administration, staff, and students during this year. We thank our colleagues for their diligence, collegiality, and professionalism in working with us. It has been a valuable learning and growing experience for all of us. We look forward to the next academic year and to serving you.

The members of the ARC acknowledge the outstanding leadership of S. Klein (SAB) as Chair of this committee.
S. Klein acknowledges and thanks the other members of the ARC, Susan Kurzmann (LIB); Jonathan Lipkin (CA), Robert Mentore (TAS); Frances Shapiro-Skrobe (SSHS); Ira Spar (AIS); Jacquelyn Skrzynski (Office of the Provost, ex-officio member) for their outstanding service and commitment to the College.

We wish all a good summer.

Thank you.

* ARC Membership: Stephen Klein (SAB), Chair; Susan Kurzmann (LIB); Jonathan Lipkin (CA), Robert Mentore (TAS); Frances Shapiro-Skrobe (SSHS); Ira Spar (AIS); Jacquelyn Skrzynski (Office of the Provost, ex-officio member).

RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY  
ACADEMIC REVIEW COMMITTEE  

PROPOSAL FOR  

GRADUATION WITH DISTINCTION (LATIN HONORS)  

The proposal specifies the minimum number of Ramapo graded credits required of graduating students to qualify for Latin Honors under the CLA initiative. The proposal is separated into the following resolutions:

NOTE: The proposed revisions are in bold underlined typeface.

RESOLUTION I:

PROPOSED:
Latin honors will be awarded to graduates who have completed a minimum of 64 graded credits (not including “P” grades) at Ramapo College and who have achieved a cumulative grade point average (including “R” grade credits) as follows:

- 3.50-3.69 cum laude
- 3.70-3.84 magna cum laude
- 3.85-4.00 summa cum laude

CURRENT:
Latin honors will be awarded to graduates who have completed a minimum of 65 graded credits (not including “P” grades) at Ramapo College and who have achieved a cumulative grade point average (including “R” grade credits) as follows:

- 3.50-3.69 cum laude
- 3.70-3.84 magna cum laude
3.85-4.00 summa cum laude

Graduating students participating in the College Honors will also receive an Honors Certificate and an Honors Medal.


LATIN HONORS FOR SECOND RAMAPO DEGREE CANDIDATES

RESOLUTION II:
Ramapo graduates returning for a second undergraduate degree who qualified for Latin Honors in their first Ramapo Baccalaureate degree:

PROPOSED:
1. Graduation with Distinction (Latin Honors) is awarded to graduates who have completed a minimum of 32 graded Ramapo credits (not including “P” grades), graduated with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.50 in their first Ramapo Baccalaureate, and have achieved a cumulative grade point average in their second degree career as follows:
   - 3.50-3.69 cum laude
   - 3.70-3.84 magna cum laude
   - 3.85-4.00 summa cum laude

CURRENT:
1. Graduation with Distinction (Latin Honors) is awarded to graduates who have completed 30-64 graded Ramapo credits (not including “P” grades), graduated with a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.50 in their first Ramapo Baccalaureate, and have achieved a cumulative G.P.A. in their second degree career as follows:
   - 3.50-3.69 cum laude
   - 3.70-3.84 magna cum laude
   - 3.85-4.00 summa cum laude

RESOLUTION III:
Ramapo graduates returning for a second undergraduate degree who did not qualify for Latin Honors in their first Ramapo Baccalaureate degree:

PROPOSED:
2. Graduation with Distinction (Latin Honors) is awarded to graduates who have completed a minimum of 64 graded Ramapo credits (not including “P” grades) and who have achieved a cumulative grade point average in their second degree career as follows:
   - 3.50-3.69 cum laude
   - 3.70-3.84 magna cum laude
   - 3.85-4.00 summa cum laude

CURRENT:
2. Graduation with Distinction (Latin Honors) is awarded to graduates who have completed 65 graded Ramapo credits (not including “P” grades) and who have achieved a cumulative grade point average in their second degree career as follows:
   - 3.50-3.69 cum laude
   - 3.70-3.84 magna cum laude
   - 3.85-4.00 summa cum laude

### Academic Review Committee (ARC) Activity Log - Academic Year 2004/2005

(Reserved by School and Faculty)

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[Resolutions I, II, & III passed]
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<td>Study Abroad</td>
<td>Global / World Cultures</td>
<td>Review of Study Abroad Syllabi for Conformance with Ramapo College Course Syllabus Guidelines: AAMR 320 The Geography of the American West; AHST 317 Cultural Reflections; ALIT 205 The English Novel; APOL 301 China: History Politics and Culture; Regents College: BBIS 326 Fund. of International Business; BMKT 490 Topics in International Marketing - Italy; CCOM 214 Contemporary British Media; CTHE 209 British Theater; MSOC 305, MSOC 208, MSOC 333, MSOC 409 Study Abroad in India Fireflies Semester Program; SBIO 205 Tropical Botany; SBIO 235 Field Studies in Tropical Plant Production; SENS 317 Tropical Ecosystems; SENV/AAMR 365 The American Southwest; SGEO 307 National Parks and National Forests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Spr 05</td>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100-Level Science</td>
<td>SINT 1XX</td>
<td>Chemistry for Educators</td>
<td>First-time Pilot Course. Exception to moratorium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Spr 05</td>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>SINT 1XX</td>
<td>Pre-Calculus for Educators</td>
<td>First-time Pilot Course. Exception to moratorium.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Su 05</td>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>100-Level Math</td>
<td>SMTH 1XX</td>
<td>Introduction to Math Modeling</td>
<td>Initially submitted 7/11/04. Approved new course. Exception to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Approval</td>
<td>Status Code</td>
<td>Status</td>
<td>Course Name</td>
<td>Course Description</td>
<td>Approval Status</td>
<td>Note</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approval Status for Pilot Course</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Global / World Cultures</td>
<td>MSOC 305</td>
<td>Indian Life and Culture - S. India Study Abroad</td>
<td>S. India Study Abroad (P)ilot to (A)pproval. Exception to the moratorium</td>
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<td>Approval Status for Pilot Course</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Global / World Cultures</td>
<td>MSOC 208</td>
<td>Development in India - S. India Study Abroad</td>
<td>S. India Study Abroad (P)ilot to (A)pproval. Exception to the moratorium</td>
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<td>Approval Status for Pilot Course</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Global / World Cultures</td>
<td>MSOC 333</td>
<td>Peace, Justice and Social Movements - S. India Study Abroad</td>
<td>S. India Study Abroad (P)ilot to (A)pproval. Exception to the moratorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approval Status for Pilot Course</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>Global / World Cultures</td>
<td>MSOC 409</td>
<td>Field Study Seminar / Independent Study Project - S. India Study Abroad</td>
<td>S. India Study Abroad (P)ilot to (A)pproval. Exception to the moratorium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two (2) New SNUR Courses; One (1) New SNUR 4XX; Five (5) Course Revisions</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>SNUR 230; SNUR 312; SNUR 325; SNUR 416; SNUR 418</td>
<td>SNUR Health Promotion and Disease; SNUR 3XX Foundations of Nursing; SNUR 4XX Health Care Policy and Finance</td>
<td>Exception to the moratorium: UMDNJ/Ramapo Nursing Curriculum Revision for Accreditation: 1) Decrease the overall number of credits required for the degree - from 129 to the Ramapo requirement of 128; 2) add 3 new courses and revise 5 courses (course credits); 3) renumbering of courses. New courses were processed as &quot;first-time pilot&quot; courses; syllabi need to conform to Ramapo Course Syllabus Guidelines.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Highlighted requests require immediate ARC action.*

**Status Codes:** S = Submitted; A = Approved; F = Processed as First Time Pilot Course; P = Pending; W = Work In Progress; R = Returned

**First Time (Status Code = "F") Pilot course requires ARC approval before it can offered again.**

**Linda Padley (ACAF) will notify the ARC, the Convening Groups/Faculty Members of course status code changes from "F" to a "P".**

**The ARC Rep will follow-up with the Convening Groups/Faculty members.**

**with a status code of "P" cannot be offered a second time without ARC approval.**

**If the course is a General Education course, notify Jackie Skryznski (ADV) of ARC action.**

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Compiled by: Stephen Klein

Updated 05/24/2005