

To: Faculty Assembly

From: Academic Review Committee (ARC) \*

Date: June 21, 2004

Subject: ARC Report #16 to the Faculty Assembly

### **Courseload Adjustment (CLA) III Final Report – General Education/School Core Model**

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.

Thank you.

\* ARC Membership: Stephen Klein (SAB), Chair; Shalom Gorewitz (CA); Robert Mentore (TAS); Elaine Risch (LIB); Frances Shapiro-Skrobe (SSHS); Ira Spar (AIS); Martha Ecker (Office of the Provost, ex-officio member).