

Final Report, Fall 2001

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VP for Student Academic Affairs

This report basically just has some specifics about what I did this semester in SAAB. If you'd like more procedural information on how to perform the duties of the VP for SAA, please refer to the Position Guide. Also, please keep in mind that this may not make all that much sense if you are completely unfamiliar with the position. Then again, we are college students and are therefore used to diving in over our heads, so feel free to read on anyway. And yes, this is the same intro as I wrote for last two semesterly reports. I'm lazy, OK?

➤ **Board**

The Board had another effective and efficient year. All positions were filled, and everybody was very inclusive, gave good comments during discussions, made well thought-out funding decisions, and were very passionate in our discussions regarding the Commission on Academic Priorities and the Commission on Teaching. I still need Physics and Theatre representatives for next semester, but other than that, the Board is ready for next semester. One of the Board members is also interested in serving as VP next year, which makes me very happy.

Sophomore Holly Fern served as administrative assistant again, and she was awesome as usual. Thanks to her experience, I was able to give her more projects this year, which I have listed below. I've been working with her on better formulating the AA responsibilities, too. She was very dynamic and will (hopefully) make a good chair someday, although she unfortunately won't be able to run next year because she's going on an overseas trip. Damn Foreign Languages major! This semester, Holly also served as student representative on the Petitions and Waivers committee, a subcommittee of the Admissions, Awards, and Academic Standing Committee that reviews petitions to waive College requirements.

➤ **Discussions**

SAAB discussed the following topics this year with the following results:

❖ **Saturday Finals**

At the beginning of the semester, I investigated the issue of Saturday finals. the current policy, which will probably be longstanding, is that during Fall semester, finals will be on Saturday and Monday through Wednesday in order to get us out as soon as possible for Winter Break. Finals Spring semester will be from Monday to Thursday. The reason for the finals seemed sufficient to the Board. There is also a policy that if a student has three finals in one day or four finals on two consecutive days, they can reschedule one.

❖ **Community Service Requirement**

At the interest of a couple of students, SAAB had an email discussion about the possibility of having a community service requirement. The sides were weighed, and the Board decided that it would not be a good idea because 1) logistically, it would be difficult to implement and figure out what exactly is entailed by 'community service'; and 2) philosophically, requiring community service detracts from the free spirit of the activity. However, the Board did find experiential learning to be beneficial and is recommending that it be implemented more in classes in our report to the Commission on Academic Priorities (see below).

❖ **Thomas J. Watson Fellowship**

Holly worked on getting a new fellowship opportunity available at LC, the Thomas J. Watson fellowship. This program is similar to the Fulbright. It allows students to go and research in another country for a year following their graduation. However, a school has to be a Watson member institution - of which there are only 50 - in order to nominate students, so Holly spoke with Curtis Johnson about it, and Curtis is applying for institutional membership.

❖ **SAAB's 20th Anniversary**

February 22, 2002, marks SAAB's twentieth anniversary. I created a committee that will be working on setting up some sort of forum to celebrate it in February. It will probably include a keynote speaker - maybe an alumni grant recipient or President Mooney - as well as current Board members, grantees, faculty members, and maybe somebody from an external nonprofit. I've also been working with Jean Kempe-Ware in publications to get SAAB some national media attention. Nothing has come of that yet. Finally, I've inquired with Jane Atkinson to present to the Board of Trustees about SAAB, and it sounds like that's a go!

❖ **Phasing out the Tutoring Program**

As per a discussion started last year, Brendan Wilson, this year's Tutoring Director, and I met with Curtis Johnson. It sounds like we are going to phase the Tutoring program out of SAAB's hands over the course of a couple of years. It will probably be taken up by the Director of Academic Awards and Honors in Curtis's Office. The issue is not being taken up by the Academic Council, so there will be more on that next year.

❖ **Commission on Academic Priorities (CAP)**

This was SAAB's huge issue for the semester. We devoted several of our weekly meetings to discuss this issue. We addressed three main questions: What are the liberal arts, how do Lewis & Clark and its divisions meet these goals, and how can we better meet these goals. We analyzed these issues both as a whole and in divisions (Fine Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Interdisciplinary). I have attached our full findings and recommendations to this report. However, here were our main recommendations: 1) Draw more connections between courses,

departments, and programs; 2) Promote experiential learning; 3) Better define senior capstone/keystone experiences across the curriculum; 4) Better incorporate writing and speaking into classes other than Inventing America; 5) Embrace working professionals such as studio artists, performing musicians, shop forepeople, and creative writers; and 6) Improve pre-major academic advising. With the exception of the last point, we found that some departments already fulfilled our recommendations but that the practices should be universalized. For more information, please refer to the attached.

❖ **Senior Art Stipends**

As a result of a discussion begun during our semesterly Performance grant meeting, I brought up this issue to Dean of Arts & Humanities Dinah Dodds and the Fine Arts chairs (Art, Music, and Theatre). Fine Arts seniors, particularly studio art and music composition, have very expensive projects, and many of them end up coming to SAAB. However, we cannot afford to fund them all, and it is not our job. Hence, we began work on finding some other sort of financial assistance for them. Stipends were a possibility as was recalculating their cost of attendance for financial aid purposes. More on this issue will come up next semester. As a result of our discussion, however, the deadline for Performance applications will be changed to better work with the departments that use them the most. Specifically, Fall semester the deadline will be between the 8th and 10th weeks of the semester and Spring semester it will be between the 6th and 8th.

❖ **Commission on Teaching (COT)**

One of our weekly meetings was devoted to discussing the issues under consideration by the COT. Issues that the COT addressed include the definition & scope of teaching, support & development for teaching, advising, the interface between scholarship & teaching, and evaluating, documenting, & honoring good teaching. The committee specifically discussed what teaching methods we found effective. We broke into small groups to discuss these issues with individual commission members. The COT's report is due next semester, so there will be more to report on this issue next semester as well.

❖ **Rules of Procedure**

We began work on revising our Rules of Procedure again. There won't be too many significant policy changes other than the Performance grant name change, deadline change, and some structural things. Again, more on this next semester.

➤ **Curriculum Committee/Faculty**

Myself and sophomore Communication/Psychology double-major major Kim Sackmann served as the voting student representatives on the College Committee on the Curriculum. In addition, Kim served on the Course Proposals subcommittee, which reviews all additions, deletions, and alterations of courses at the College. I

also attended all of the faculty meetings. Here are synopses of the major discussions held in the Committee and during faculty meetings:

❖ Environmental Studies Program Review

The Curriculum Committee examined the external review of the Environmental Studies Program, conducted last year. Generally speaking, the review was positive, although it had several key points that it felt needed work in our program: 1) the academic rigor of the program, particularly the quantitative component; 2) the transfer of leadership, since the program was before almost entirely upheld by Professor Evan Williams; and 3) The coherence and connection of the program. ENVS plans to address these issues. They have currently addressed the first and third issues by creating a council of professors who will take up stewardship of the program and by revising their three departmental courses to better cohere what is being learned in the other courses. The second concern will be addressed next semester when ENVS presents its major revisions. This will mainly involve addition of a required track to the major. This will add six classes to the major but will basically mean that the major will include a core of courses AND basically a minor or second major in one of six or seven departments. This will come under discussion next semester.

❖ Course Proposals

The Committee is reviewing the course proposals process and paper in order to make the process more efficient so that we can spend our time on more significant issues during committee meetings. Proposed changes mainly have to do with making the departmental and divisional reviews of courses more stringent so that the committee spends less time on nitpicky details. The form will also be revised so that there is more emphasis on the philosophy of adding/dropping/altering the course and questions addressing materials, teaching methods, and curricular impacts.

❖ Credit Cap & the 1/3 Policy

The task force designed to address the issue of whether the 1/3 general education, 1/3 major, and 1/3 elective balance is proper for the College's needs. The main work has been in examining other school's programs and rationales to see whether these cohere with our own. The issue will be brought up to the full committee next semester and will undoubtedly be brought up with the revision of the ENVS major, since its proposed changes definitely violate this implied policy. Some committee members support more classes in general education while others support more classes in the major. The task force, however, agrees that the credit cap should be eliminated, at least for now. General education requirements are also coming under discussion with this.

❖ Commissions on Academic Priorities & Teaching

These Commission and their subgroups have been working throughout the semester. Their reports are due next semester and will come under full

faculty review, so there will be big doings then. More on that during next semester's report.

➤ **Programs**

❖ General

This semester was smooth sailing since this is my second year in the position and I did most of the major revisions of programs and structures last year. As a result, I was better able to fine-tune some things in the various programs, which you will see in the next few sections. I am again expanding the responsibilities of the Administrative Assistant to include contacting students who serve on the committees under the Dean's Office. I have also been giving Holly more projects, which I described above. This is a definite plus given that the VP already has plenty to do, and it's good to get someone else highly involved in the process. Holly also worked on updating our membership database. I continued writing the SAAB Scoop to keep people abreast of SAAB happenings. I did further work on the position guide, in particular the timeline section, although the brunt of my work on that will occur next semester. SAAB is being contacted more often now for input on academic issues which I suspect has to do with a) the increase in academic discussions occurring and b) our higher visibility on campus both this and last year.

❖ Grant Program

Despite having the same amount of publicity, we received much fewer Conference, Performance, and Visiting Scholar grants this semester. However, this was certainly counteracted by the huge number of Research applications, 17, to be exact. We ended up giving out about the same number of applications as last year. We had few Performance applications this semester and hence were left with about \$400 in the category. Conference and Visiting Scholar had x. I further revised the process of notification. Now I call those applicants who were funded but only send letters to those who were rejected. It's easier on both parties, if you ask me. This process reflects real-world nonprofit funding practices. The new presentation requirement for Conference and Research grantees also came into effect this semester, although there weren't any individuals who fell under its purview whose grant cycle ended this semester. Next semester, however, there will assuredly be some action in that department. Finally, we decided to change the name of the Performance grant category to Arts Expression to reflect that we don't only fund performances through that category.

❖ Tutoring Program

Brendan Wilson ran the Tutoring Program this semester. he had a lot of problems getting departments to cooperate with him at the beginning of the year and hence got the tutoring list out late. The tutor training also fell through for a variety of reasons. These issues are going to hopefully be resolved next semester. Brenda and I met with Dean Curtis Johnson

regarding the future of the tutoring program. Hopefully starting next year, we will begin phasing it out of SAAB and into the Dean of the College's office, probably under the purview of the Director of Academic Grants & Scholarships. The Academic Council needs to discuss this issue, however. There are some logistical nuances that need to be worked out for next semester, but Brendan's on top of those.

❖ Peer Academic Advising Program

The Peer Wellness Educators conducted pre-advising workshops for first-year students during NSO. Those students from whom I hear were pleased with it, although we do definitely need to expand the program to make it more functional. Unfortunately, that was not a priority this semester. However, I will be working on it next semester.

❖ Equipment

We had one equipment request for a minidisc recorder that was approved. Our minidisc recorders are still managed successfully by the Electronic Music program, and more students are now able to access them. I've been working with Jane Hunter of the history department to see if they'd like our digital scanning device, the C-Pen. It looks like they would indeed be interested, and I'll be working out those details with her next semester.

❖ Departmental Assessment Survey

I assigned Holly to work on the departmental assessment survey, a way for outgoing seniors to give a little feedback on how their departments are doing. She's been working with Jay Beaman from the Registrar's Office and Michael Ford from the Provost's Office to figure out how we can best phrase questions, what format we should use, and what time period we should send it out in so that we'll receive a significant number of responses. The survey will probably be attached to the annual Senior Survey and be composed of several yes or no questions followed by maybe a couple of open-ended questions. More on this next semester.

❖ Awards & Prizes Committee

The Awards & Prizes committee reviewed one candidate for an Honorary Degree this semester, Mr. Idei, CEO of Sony Corporation. The nomination caused quite some controversy because the two student representatives, ASLC President Cody Hoesly and myself, voted against awarding him the degree for a variety of reasons. Our dissent caused a discussion not only on the proper criteria for an honorary degree, but also on our apparent lack of communication due to our "email meetings." Hopefully, the situation will improve a bit.

❖ Commencement Speaker Committee

The Commencement Speaker Committee had a preliminary meeting to discuss our standards for a speaker and whether conferring of an honorary degree is necessary. We decided that getting big name speakers is not as much of a concern as getting somebody inspiring and who will appreciate

receiving an honorary degree from us more. the initial letter calling for nominees has gone out to the juniors, staff, and faculty for the 2003 Commencement. We will resume work next semester.

❖ Honor Board

The Chair of the College Honor Board this year is senior Simon Sponberg. The three student members are sophomore Terra Tolley, senior Alexa Amos, and sophomore Michael Glover. The three faculty members are German professor Erika Berroth, Math professor John Krussel, and International Affairs professor Cyrus Partovi. Simon did a presentation during the beginning of the year for NSO, including a special session with international students, since they account for more than half of the cases. This semester, CHB heard three cases. they have also been working with Jennifer Dorner, Information Literacy Coordinator, to get online tutorials about honor code issues. Next semester, they will probably be distributing an honor code-related survey that sparked the creation of the Honor Board.

❖ Committees

In an effort to facilitate communication between students, administration and faculty and to increase student involvement in the College, ASLC has increased efforts to get students on committees. As is logical given SAAB's nature, all of the committees under the Dean of the College's office now fall under our purview. This semester, I filled positions on all of the committees and have been hearing back from most of them. A list of the committees now under SAAB and the students who serve on them is attached to this report. Cody and I also worked on getting a better selection and notification process for student members of faculty search committees, i.e., to get SAAB into the loop. The issue is still under consideration by Dean Johnson.

➤ **Grant Summaries**

| Date Awarded | Name | Amount | Type |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| ❖ September 20, 2001 | Dusty Hoesly et al | \$1,000 | Scholar |
| Description: Philosophy grant to invite William Caspary and Douglas Kellner to speak at a symposium entitled "Citizens or Shoppers: Can Democracy Survive in the Mall" to honor retiring professor Clayton Morgareidge. | | | |
| ❖ October 4, 2001 | Jason Guchereau & Matt Wilkinson | \$1,100 | Conference |
| Description: Computer Science grant to attend the Super Computing 2001 Conference to present their summer research work on "How to Achieve 1 GByte/sec/I/O Throughput With Commodity IDE Disks." | | | |
| ❖ October 20, 2001 | Heather Meyer | \$1,737.25 | Performance |
| Description: Art grant to frame drawings of individuals who ride the public buses for a senior gallery presentation to be held at the end of the semester. | | | |

- ❖ October 20, 2001 Morgan Law \$300 Performance
Description: Art grant to create paintings depicting smoking culture and examining the social and physical influences of smoking.
- ❖ October 20, 2001 Adam Burke \$400 Performance
Description: Art grant to create photographs of “found” objects using several unique forms of photo developing and exposure.
- ❖ October 20, 2001 Elizabeth Cain \$639 Performance
Description: Art grant to create ceramic pots to be arranged and painted in various fashions in order to tell stories about the artist’s life.
- ❖ October 24, 2001 Cecily Pingree Minidisc Equipment
Description: Art grant to use a minidisc recorder to create music to be played during a display of her art project, casts of pregnant women in various stages of their pregnancy.
- ❖ November 8, 2001 John Maxfield \$541 Conference
Description: Economics grant to attend the 2002 American Economic Association’s Conference in order to network with professional economists and gain further knowledge of various economic issues, including sustainable environmental policy.
- ❖ November 11, 2001 Kristin Mahan \$1,165 Research
Description: SOAN grant to travel to Mongolia to study Mongolians connection to their land and the recent push for land privatization, including its effects on the pastoral lifestyle of many Mongolians.
- ❖ November 11, 2001 Stephanie Bleyer \$1,567 Research
Description: Hispanic Studies grant to go on a biking tour through Cuba in order to study alternative transportation in Cuba and Cubans’ increased dependence on bikes after the fall of the Soviet Union.
- ❖ November 11, 2001 Daniel Donegan \$2,000 Research
Description: Art grant to studio time and work with a widely-recognized glassblower in order to study the Venetian style of glassblowing in anticipation of a senior project in glass.
- ❖ November 11, 2001 Eva Dubey \$1,200 Research
Description: Biology grant to study research the effects of westernization on the people of Micronesia and their traditional use of plants in everything from food to clothing.
- ❖ November 11, 2001 Talia Epstein \$511 Research
Description: Environmental Studies grant to research the storage of nuclear waste on the Skull Valley Goshutes Native American Reservation and the opposition movements related to it.

- ❖ November 11, 2001 Ben Levy \$305 Research
Description: Music grant to travel to Louisiana to interview Zydeco artist Nathan Williams, who is the subject of Ben's ethnomusicology thesis.

- ❖ November 11, 2001 Matthew Chastain \$1,769 Research
Description: Religious Studies grant to travel to India to study the personification of evil in Buddhism: Mara. Particularly, Matthew wishes to research how people's personifications of evil are enacted in everyday life.

- ❖ November 11, 2001 Teresa Kurtak \$1,600 Research
Description: SOAN grant to travel to Cuba to take part in a program about Cuba's sustainable agriculture. The research will be a comparative study between the farmers markets of Portland and Cuba.

- ❖ November 11, 2001 Emilie McKittrick \$849 Research
Description: Religious Studies grant to travel to Scotland to study the decline of the Free Church, a conservative religious institution which has now fractionalized due to different approaches to modernization.

- ❖ November 29, 2001 Sarah Gessford, Jason Huff & Rosalee Rasmussen \$1,676 Conference
Description: Biochemistry grant to attend the Experimental Biology 2002 Conference to participate in a poster competition and present their research on how long-term memory formation is affected by the protein TPA.

- ❖ November 29, 2001 Lynelle Tarter \$200 Scholar
Description: Chemistry grant to invite LC alumna Tina Saxowsky, a graduate student in Biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University, to speak about her graduate school experiences and research.

- ❖ November 29, 2001 Amanda Gasset \$506 Conference
Description: Biology grant to attend the Society for Integrative Biology 2002 Annual Meeting in order to attend sessions on bio-adhesion to help with her work as a researcher in Dr. Kellar Autumn's gecko lab.

➤ **Pros and Cons of the Semester**

This semester also went very well, although we did have a lot of grant applications that tested the water of the Board and the effectiveness of SAAB's rules. Overall, however, I think that we made significant progress.

- ❖ Pros
 - ☞ We made lots of good grants, as always.
 - ☞ The faculty are really keeping us in mind on important issues such as CAP and COT.
 - ☞ Our discussion about CAP issues was insightful, and we came up with some good recommendations.

- ⌘ Expanding the AA's duties is giving Holly an opportunity to really utilize her skills more than just typing minutes.
- ⌘ The new committee structure will help keep us abreast of the happenings in all academic aspects of the College.

❖ Cons

- ⌘ Peer Academic Advising needs to be developed further in order to make it a more effective program.
- ⌘ I need to follow up more on our recommendations to various committees.
- ⌘ Publicity was kind of lax for Performance applications.
- ⌘ Communication between us, tutors, and departments was lacking.

➤ **Goals for Next Semester**

- ❖ Meet with Kristi Williams and Jon Eldridge to further develop the peer academic advising program.
- ❖ Get the SAAB grant database on the web.
- ❖ Continue being involved in the discussions and reacting to the reports of the Commissions on Academic Priorities and Teaching.
- ❖ Discuss the issues of Inventing America and the general education requirements
- ❖ Find ways to increase the endowment.
- ❖ Find and train a successor.
- ❖ Plan the SAAB's 20th birthday bash!
- ❖ Put sample grants on the web.
- ❖ Expand the position guide.
- ❖ Work with History department to make the C-Pen more widely accessible.
- ❖ Distribute the departmental assessment survey again.
- ❖ Develop committee contact responsibilities for the AA.
- ❖ Increase publicity for Arts Expression applications.

And that's all she wrote, folks (or he, as the case may be).