

# **Final Report, Spring 2002**

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### **VP for Student Academic Affairs**

I suppose that my last semesterly report after two terms as VP for Student Academic Affairs should be a bittersweet one. However, although I love SAAB and all that it does, it's time for me to move on. Nonetheless, I did stay busy this semester, despite it being my last. The release of the Commission on Academic Priorities ensured that (see below)! Anyway, read on for details on the SAAB semester-in-review.

#### **➤ Board**

The Board had another effective and efficient year. All positions were filled except Theatre and Physics, 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. Sophomore Holly Fern served as administrative assistant again, and she was awesome as usual. 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:

##### **❖ Community Service Requirement**

One of our new members this year wanted to revisit the discussion on having a community service requirement. They provided several reasons for why service learning is a compelling form of learning and why it should be offered as a requirement. However, the Board reaffirmed its decision from last semester that requiring community service is not preferable since it 1) removes the aspect of choice from the activity, 2) would be difficult to implement, and 3) would be more effective if it were worked into the classroom, i.e., more experiential learning. The Board also reaffirmed this commitment in their comments regarding the draft report of the Commission on Academic Priorities.

##### **❖ SAAB's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002, was SAAB's twentieth anniversary. We celebrated it on February 5<sup>th</sup> in Council Chamber. Although the turnout was small, it was a lively and interested bunch, and it reaffirmed the uniqueness and effectiveness of SAAB. Also, SAAB plans to start a more rigorous endowment campaign sometime in the future, possibly during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will allow SAAB to become more financially independent of student fees and

will allow those fees to go to other groups. Unfortunately, our keynote speaker - former SAAB Chair Tony Abena - was unable to come.

❖ Phasing out the Tutoring Program

The Tutoring Program will indeed be turned over to the Administration. The transfer will begin next year with the Dean's Office paying for a quarter of the budget and us paying for three quarters. Each year, they will pay a quarter more and we'll pay a quarter less until it is completely phased over during the fourth year. We will continue to hire a student director until the transfer is complete.

❖ Inventing America

SAAB began discussing the CORE course Inventing America, which will be up for its three-year review next year. Generally speaking, the Board did not approve of the common syllabus as they felt that this detracted from the faculty's interest in teaching the course and thereby the students' interest in taking it. They also felt that it did not consistently fulfill its goals as it is highly dependent on the teacher. This is a particular concern given the course's focus on writing skills. However, the Board did see the benefit in having a CORE course and a common first year experience. Therefore, the Board decided that more department-specific courses in CORE with a common theme - on the model of the second semester of Inventing America - would be effective and much more enjoyable. They also felt that identifying writing-intensive courses that already exist in the curriculum would be beneficial. SAAB will be involved in the further discussions on Inventing America next semester. Particularly, it needs to be ensured that upperclasspeople are polled regarding their views on Inventing America and whether it is fulfilling its goals.

❖ Beta-Testing Online Registration

Along with several other students, SAAB beta-tested the new online registration system with the Registrar's Office. Although the system was fairly easy to use, there were many glitches with the program including not being able to register for the second round, not being able to re-register for a class after withdrawing from one, and not being able to login from off campus. Hopefully, the Registrar will correct these issues soon.

❖ Commission on Academic Priorities (CAP)

CAP released its long-awaited report just before Spring Break this semester. It proved very controversial as it recommended phasing out programs such as Russian, Latin American Studies, and Political Economy. It also recommended bolstering LC's offerings in the Classics and focusing the College on three main geographic areas: the Americas, Europe, and Asia. The report drew much criticism from both students and faculty. SAAB devoted three weekly meetings to commenting on the Commission's report. We also hosted two student body forums on the issue, and over 75 students attended the first forum. In general, the Board supported much of the spirit of the report, however, we disagreed with many of the specific

recommendations and offered alternatives. We also expanded upon many of the Commission's recommendations and offered specific ways in which they might be implemented. Please refer to the attached document for SAAB's reactions to the CAP draft report. A final copy of the report should be sent to the President by the end of May.

❖ **Commission on Teaching (COT)**

Although we did not meet with COT this semester, they did release their report at the end of April. Unfortunately, due to the timing, SAAB was unable to comment on the report. However, hopefully, the Commission will still be open to comments next semester so that it can be one of the first issues SAAB discusses next year.

❖ **Diversity Taskforce**

The Diversity taskforce also released its report near the end of the semester, however, the Board again did not have the chance to comment on it. It would be a good item of discussion next year, however.

❖ **Rules of Procedure**

SAAB discussed and passed a new set of Rules of Procedure in April. Here are highlights of the changes:

1. Replacing the Administrative Assistant position with a Vice Chair position, which will have more responsibilities and be less of a "secretarial" job. This would also be a good way to train possible new chairs of SAAB.
2. Changing the name of the Performance grant category to Arts Expression.
3. Changing the name of the Vice President for Student Academic Affairs to SAAB Chair.
4. Adding in sections about vacancies and dismissals (very unlikely, of course, but sticky if they ever come up).
5. Having the Board approve a budget request that the Chair will present before CBC
6. Extending the scope of the Conference grant category to include outside educational and research programs.
7. Requiring that the Chair's appointments for Vice Chair and Tutoring Director be approved by SAAB.
8. Pointing out that our meetings are open to members of the LC community except when discussing grant proposals.

➤ **Curriculum Committee/Faculty**

Myself and sophomore Psychology 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. Kim will be serving as the second Curriculum Committee member

next year as well along with Amy Lillis. Here are synopses of the major discussions held in the Committee and during faculty meetings:

❖ Environmental Studies Major Revisions

In response to the external review conducted last year, ENVS presented its major revision to the Curriculum Committee this semester. 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 several departments (Conservation Biology, Chemistry, Communication, Economics, International Affairs, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology/Anthropology, and History/English). The revisions proved very controversial as they seemed to be going far above the 1/3<sup>rd</sup> rule for major requirements. Many also questioned whether the revisions actually increased academic rigor in the department. However, the Curriculum Committee did ultimately pass the proposal since it was a creative and interesting approach to teaching Environmental Studies.

❖ Theatre Major Revisions

The Theatre department also revised its major in order to have two tracks: Performance and Dramatic Literature/Theory. The department originally also wanted to have a Technical Theatre track, but the Curriculum Committee was hesitant to approve this as it depended on an adjunct faculty member.

❖ Course Proposals

The Committee further revised the course proposals process, which will hopefully be implemented next semester. It calls for more detailed responses and thought about how one's course fits into the larger department, division, and overall College curriculum.

❖ Faculty Governance

This semester, President Mooney announced that he would be reappointing Curtis Johnson as Dean of the College. However, this raised discontent as he did not create the promised review committee of Dean Johnson's performance before making his decision. He did solicit letters from the faculty, however, and received many positive and negative comments on Dean Johnson's performance. However, in response to the lack of a set policy through which faculty can have a voice in choosing the Dean, a motion was made during the March faculty meeting to appoint such a committee. This caused a large discussion on the nature of faculty governance at the College and how much power should be consolidated in the position of the President of the College. However, while this discussion will undoubtedly have some far-reaching effects, it was overshadowed by the release of the CAP draft report a couple of weeks later.

❖ Commissions on Academic Priorities (CAP)

Many of the issues addressed in the draft CAP report have to do with curricular issues, so the Curriculum Committee will probably be discussing

many of the final recommendations of report. The faculty as a whole was very busy commenting on this report, however. They held multiple forums on the issue and had lively debate over the faculty listserv on some of the more controversial points. This report may have severely damaged relations between the faculty and the administration, as well as those on CAP. There will undoubtedly be many repercussions of the report.

❖ **Calendar Issues**

Near the end of the semester, it was discovered that many of the principles agreed upon by the faculty a few years ago would be violated in the next few years as a result of the way the days fall. The Curriculum Committee therefore reopened the discussion on calendar issues. Revisions that will be proposed to the faculty next year include:

1. Changing Fall Break to three days (Friday-Sunday)
2. Changing Thanksgiving Break to five days (Wednesday-Sunday)
3. Setting the final date for finals in the Fall as December 18<sup>th</sup> and counting backwards from there in order to determine the starting date of the semester.
4. Squeezing classes into a half-day on Martin Luther King, Jr., day in order to provide time to celebrate the holiday.
5. Trying to find a way to avoid holding Commencement on Mother's Day by possibly holding it on a different day of the week or holding it during the first Sunday in May rather than the second.

These ideas have not yet been finalized, however, and will be discussed further by the committee next fall before taking them to the faculty.

➤ **Programs**

❖ **General**

Again, this semester was pretty smooth since this is my second year as SAAB Chair. The Board was somewhat more subdued in discussions than usual, though I'm not quite sure why. I suspect it had something to do with the rather apathetic tone on the campus as a whole, although I'm not sure about the reason for that, either. Regardless, though, we had some spirited discussions that produced some good results. I did all of the regular things entailed by my position including advertising for grants, writing the SAAB Scoop, keeping Publications informed about the grants we awarded, and other such items. The beginning of the semester was rather slow. However, the last third of the semester was quite busy owing to the release of the CAP draft report on which we facilitated student discussion. This was a very influential and rewarding process that I hope we can repeat when other important College reports are released. Fortunately, we found people for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Tutoring Director positions - Amy Lillis, James Christie, and Natalie Selinski respectively. All will do excellent jobs, I think. The Board will also have two new faculty advisors next semester replacing Klaus

Engelhardt: John Krussel from Mathematics and John Fritzman from Philosophy.

❖ Grant Program

We had few applications this semester, although I am not sure why. In fact, we had only 4 research applications, compared with 17 last semester, and had to extend our deadline for all applications. Even with said extension, we had an excess of over \$5,500 in grant funds, most of which I am hoping to carry over to next semester given that we got a slight budget cut from the Charter & Budget Commission. I am unsure as to why we got this cut. Interestingly, however, those few applications we got this semester were quite strong on the whole, although we certainly did have raucous discussions about most of them. We did have a slight controversy with a grant that we rejected. Specifically, the applicant and their faculty advisor questioned our rejection and did not approve of our lack of an appeals process. However, I believe that the situation was handled effectively. There may be some minor repercussions from it next semester, but it is unlikely. The Board also voted to change the scope of the Conference grant category to include educational programs as well as conferences. This would emphasize such things as outside research opportunities. The new name for the category is "Programs and Conference." This was also the first semester the Board operated under the new "Arts Expression" name for the former "Performance" category. It proved quite successful.

❖ Tutoring Program

Brendan Wilson ran the Tutoring Program again this semester. It ran pretty smoothly and with few bumps. There were a few tutors who didn't get paid, but Brendan worked all that out. Natalie Selinski, a sophomore next year, will be Tutoring Director next year. Next year will also begin the four-year transfer of tutoring from SAAB to the Dean's office. The Dean's office will be paying for a quarter of the budget (\$2,500-3,000) next year and we'll be paying for three quarters (\$7,500-9,000). Each year, they'll pay a quarter more and we'll pay a quarter less until the fourth year when the program will be completely under the auspices of the Dean.

❖ Peer Academic Advising Program

The peer academic advising was not active this semester; it only operates in the fall.

❖ Equipment

We only received one equipment request this semester which I approved myself since I was having trouble getting the digital video camera back from the person who borrowed it before. However, I did get it back and a person will be using it over the summer. It will be returned over the summer to either the Dean of Students office or Student Activities. It will then need to be picked up next semester. The two minidisk recorders that were loaned out last semester were returned safely and soundly to the Electronic Music studio where they will remain over the summer. They will still be checked

out on a daily basis over the summer. Finally, given the low use of the items, I donated the SAAB Petzl headlamp and Garmin GPS receiver to Dr. Paulette Bierzychudek in Biology. She does multiple field trips with her ecology classes and will benefit greatly from having these items, more so than will SAAB. Our equipment list is therefore now two minidisk recorders, two condenser microphones, a digital video camera, a mini-cassette recorder, and the C-Pen portable scanning device.

❖ Departmental Assessment Survey

The SAAB departmental assessment survey was included this year in the Senior Survey. Its purpose is to allow seniors an opportunity to evaluate their entire department, an opportunity not currently available. This will provide valuable information for both the College and the departments. It included questions on basic satisfaction with one's department as well as whether the major requirements were logical. The results should be available, although SAAB will have to pick them up next year.

❖ Honors & Prizes Committee

The Honors and Prizes committee approved honorary degrees for the three commencement speakers of the individual schools. However, no further honorary degrees were considered. All of these approvals were done via email since they were uncontroversial.

❖ Commencement Speaker Committee

The Commencement Speaker Committee had an emergency meeting at the beginning of the semester to find a new list of speakers to send to President Mooney. None of the people on the previous list had worked out, so we needed new names. We formulated a new list of names based on previous recommendations. Unfortunately, none of those names worked for this year, either. However, one of the people - Madam Sadat of Egypt - will be speaking at the 2003 Commencement. President Mooney did find a speaker, though: Christopher Ross, an influential political figure who helped the US formulate policies on the Middle East and North Africa.

❖ Honor Board

The Honor Board heard only two cases this semester, both dealing with plagiarism. Next year's Honor Board Chair will be Patricia Pearson, a senior Philosophy major next year. The other members have not yet been chosen.

❖ Committees

Most of the committees were relatively uneventful this year. The subcommittee on Awards & Honors of the Committee on Admissions, Awards, and Academic Standing awarded scholarships to incoming students once more. The AAAS also administered an advising survey to students that flagged some interesting and disturbing results regarding the state of pre-major academic advising. This will be a cornerstone project of that committee next year. The other committees performed their regular duties. There were six searches this year, however. All six searches - in Biology,

History, Religious Studies, Psychology, Spanish, Computer Science, and Mathematics - were successful. Many of the committees will have further work to do next year as a result of the recommendations from CAP and COT.

❖ Website

In response to the vast interest in reading the draft report of CAP, I created a new page on the SAAB website off which various documents such as the CAP report can be downloaded. It includes sections for grant applications, equipment forms, grantee forms, SAAB reports, College reports, and other miscellaneous documents.

➤ **Grant Summaries**

<b>Date Awarded</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Type</b>
❖ February 7, 2002	Grant Aaker & Emma Miller	\$830	Conference
Description: Philosophy grant to attend the University of Memphis Undergraduate Philosophy Conference to present two papers.			
❖ February 21, 2002	Jefferson Laffey	\$1,000	Conference
Description: Sociology/Anthropology grant to attend the Tear Down the Walls Conference in Cuba addressing current prison abolition movements and support groups, a focus of Jefferson's thesis. The conference was later cancelled and the grant returned.			
❖ March 10, 2002	Willow McCormick	\$650	Arts
Description: Theatre grant to help move and tune a piano for use in a theatre adaptation of Chilean author Maria Louisa Bombal's "The Tree."			
❖ March 10, 2002	Aya Tanida & Kate Bridges	\$350	Arts
Description: Environmental Studies grant to copy a children's book on global warming produced as their senior ENVS project. The copies are being sent to publishers.			
❖ March 10, 2002	Sean O'Neill	\$650	Arts
Description: Art grant to attend a glassblowing course at Firehouse No. 12 in Vancouver, WA. The class was later cancelled, but Sean was able to get individual tutelage from glassblower Lynn Read.			
❖ March 10, 2002	Elizabeth Crites	\$350	Arts
Description: Art grant to professionally print scrolls of Portland and the Japanese and Chinese Gardens for her senior project in Graphic Design.			
❖ March 10, 2002	Kate Atwood	\$288.97	Arts
Description: Art grant to produce paintings exploring the idea of energy through vibrant paintings of Indian architecture.			



- ❖ April 25, 2002                      Terra Tolley &                      \$2,060                      Conference  
Megan Sullivan  
Description: Sociology/Anthropology grant to attend the XIV International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Spain. Terra & Maggie hope to foster interdisciplinary dialogue on how to fight the AIDS epidemic upon return.
- ❖ April 25, 2002                      Ben Corey-Moran                      \$903.63                      Research  
Description: International Affairs grant to travel to Oaxaca, Mexico, to assess whether coffee farmers can become financially independent of local coffee buyers.
- ❖ May 2, 2002                      Anna Maj Michelson                      DV Camera                      Equipment  
Description: Hispanic Studies grant to do a documentary on what Oregonians think is the value of living in a rural vs. urban town.

### ➤ **Pros and Cons of the Semester**

Overall, however, I think this was another productive semester.

- ❖ Pros
  - ☒ We made lots of good grants, as always.
  - ☒ The faculty was impressed with our responses to CAP and COT.
  - ☒ Holding forums on the CAP issues and making the reports available online was a definite step forward in informing the student body.
  - ☒ Creating the Vice Chair position.
  - ☒ The new “Forms & Documents” page on the website should prove helpful.
  - ☒ We have great new people to be Chair, Vice Chair, and Tutoring Director next year.
- ❖ Cons
  - ☒ Peer Academic Advising needs to be developed further.
  - ☒ Grant opportunities weren’t publicized enough.
  - ☒ I didn’t keep tabs on the Honor Board quite as much.
  - ☒ The tone of the Board was more subdued than usual.
  - ☒ I didn’t keep up on ensuring a smooth transition for tutoring.

### ➤ **Possible Items for Next Semester**

- ❖ Discuss the pilot advising program in Inventing America with particular emphasis on having upper-division student mentors.
- ❖ Track and get involved in discussions on the fallout of reports of the Commissions on Academic Priorities and Teaching and the Diversity Taskforce.
- ❖ Work with Ben Westervelt on SAAB involvement in the Inventing America review, with emphasis on junior and senior review of the course.
- ❖ Always keep your eye out for a successor, if you don’t plan on serving a second term.

- ❖ Put sample grants on the web.
- ❖ Work with History department to make the C-Pen more widely accessible.
- ❖ Distribute results from the departmental assessment survey and work with Jay Beaman on how to improve it (Vice Chair).
- ❖ Increase publicity for grants (Vice Chair).
- ❖ Work more with getting grant opportunities out to individual departments (Vice Chair).
- ❖ Publicize meeting times and representatives (Vice Chair).
- ❖ Publicize the expanded (Vice Chair)
- ❖ Work with Jean Kempe-Ware on getting national media attention (Vice Chair).

The end.