SUPPORT FOR TEAM-TEACHING INTERDISCIPLINARY COURSES

Wooster has a long and proud tradition of courses and programs that are interdepartmental, interdisciplinary, and collaborative in nature. In conjunction with the requirement in Learning across the Disciplines, in Fall 2000, the College established a new *Program in Interdisciplinary Studies (PIDS)*. This program was supported by an external grant from the Mellon Foundation. The PIDS courses typically are team-taught by two faculty members from different departments or programs. The proposals for such courses come from a broad range of departments and programs and provide opportunities for both students and faculty to experiment with new ideas, materials, and pedagogies.

We propose eliminating the current PIDS model and redirecting the support towards teamteaching. We propose to redefine the program so that teaching credit support is provided the first time a team-taught course is offered since that is when the work is most intensive. We believe that this model can be sustained without external resources.

This new proposal for promoting interdisciplinary programs will be organized in accordance with the following policies: Proposals for new interdisciplinary courses will be submitted to the Educational Policy Committee in the semester preceding the one in which the course is to be offered. New course proposals should follow the prescribed guidelines in the Faculty Handbook, Section 7K, and be submitted according to the established deadlines for new course proposals. All faculty members team-teaching a course approved by EPC will receive a total of two teaching credits the first time the course is offered. If there are more than two members in the team, the two teaching credits will be divided equally among the total number of faculty in the team. The chairs of home departments/programs will need to indicate whether the department/program can support the proposal for team-teaching.

Only those proposals meeting the criteria described below for team-taught interdisciplinary courses will be approved by EPC:

- Courses can be proposed either with an IDPT designation or within an interdisciplinary program that has an approved major or a minor.
- If the course already exists, the proposal should address the criteria by which teamteaching of the course will enhance student learning. A rationale for any projected enrollment cap for the course should also be provided.
- It is expected that the two faculty members team-teaching the course will come from two different disciplines.
- We propose a limit of approving no more than six courses per year. Ideally, each approved course should be offered by the same team at least twice in a four-year period.
- The home departments of faculty teaching these courses will not automatically receive adjunct support. On a case by case basis, requests for adjuncts may be granted by the Provost in consultation with the Dean for Curriculum and Academic Engagement.
- There will initially be no stipend support for developing and teaching team-taught courses. If the current financial situation improves, we recommend providing modest support for developing interdisciplinary courses.