

Vick recommendations being met by colleges

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Since the University Council began bringing college degree programs within "the spirit" of the Vick report last fall, only three professional degree programs in the College of Fine Arts have not met the Vick recommendations, says James Vick, assistant dean of the College of Natural Sciences.

As 1981-83 and 1982-84 college catalogues are coming before the council for renewal, a new core curriculum including courses in English, foreign language, fine arts/humanities, natural sciences, math and social science are being incorporated into all undergraduate degree programs. The degree program changes are based on recommendations by the University Council's Committee on Basic Education Requirements, chaired by Vick.

In its original response to the Vick report, the UT College of Fine Arts Committee on Educational Policy and Curriculum, chaired by associate professor of music Lita Guerra, said its members could not endorse the report.

"Is it even possible to define an 'educated individual' by a single set of characteristics?" Guerra's committee stated in its response. "Cannot different people be equally well-educated and yet have vastly different educational experience? Does uniformity guarantee quality? The standardization implied by the report limits the diversity of educational opportunity which is the very basis of a great university."

However, Vick said: "We tried to decide what kind of characteristics we would like to see common to all of our students. But it's not like we're trying to clone the ideal graduate. This is the best opportunity someone has to develop these abilities, to learn from experts."

UT President Peter Flawn agreed. "I know we graduate some students who have not been exposed to important discoveries, to important areas of our culture. I know I would not have taken

The Vick Report creating a core curriculum

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art history had it been up to me," said Flawn, a geologist.

"But I was required to take it and as a result I took two more art history courses and gained some small knowledge to a field that I wouldn't have even opened the door," Flawn said.

When it came time to revise the College of Fine Arts catalogue, the council allowed more flexibility in the college's applied music program, which could not be changed without adding a substantial number of hours to the degree program, said Charles Roeckle, assistant dean for academic affairs in the College of Fine Arts.

"The University Council seemed to feel that this was an exception," Roeckle said.

"Some (fine arts) programs had not required as many hours of English, math and science. Substantial changes (were made) in many of our degree programs," Roeckle said.

Lack of flexibility was a major concern to the School of Architecture as the dean's office revised its 1981-83 catalogue.

"Only nine hours in the 164-hour degree program are elective hours. We were afraid that the Vick recommendations would eliminate these," said Larry Doll, assistant dean of the School of Architecture.

W.H. Cunningham, acting dean of the College of Business Administration, said his college, "did some minor shifting," but otherwise "had no problems" complying with the Vick report.

Wednesday: Some UT colleges face problems in adding Vick requirements without losing accreditation.