Contemporary University

Whatever happened to C.U.? It's got a new name!

BY BRENDA EASTERLING
Of The Gamecock staff

Contrary to popular belief, Contemporary University, a program designed for the energetic student who wishes to get away from traditional courses, is alive and active. It has never been phased out at USC nor are there plans to do away with it.

Contemporary University (C.U.) is, instead, undergoing a period of transition. The name is being changed to Interdisciplinary Independent Study, a more descriptive title of the program. The basic program will remain the same with the addition of seminars and the addition of 399 honors section. Also, acceptance into it has changed.

Assistant Dean for special programs, Phyllis Flett, is Director of Interdisciplinary Independent Study (I.S.). She was appointed last year by the Assistant Vice President of Instruction, Dr. John Welch, to begin revamping the program.

When the Center for Cultural Development was disbanded last fall, C.U. was left hanging without a department to fall under. Dr. Jim Myers' term as director had ended on July 1 but the program continued under his assistant director, Jerrie Bisby.

November the program was placed under the division of instruction and moved into Dean Fleischel's office.

The first director of C.U. was Dr. David Stenmark. Other directors were Dr. William Cauldwell, Dr. Richard Cassavaglia, and Dr. James Myers. All of the people were appointed by the administration as part-time directors.

The Vice President of Instruction, Dr. William Wesson said new directors were appointed each year in the original program. The reason for this turnover may have been the absence of permanency for C.U. at that time. Now both the program and the position of director have been adopted by the administration.

C.U. was originally set up at USC under the Jones administration in 1971 in conjunction with other colleges. It was instigated in the fall and was the only program of its kind to survive. The Dean of Arts and Sciences, Bruce Nelson, and several interested students nurtured the program. Some faculty members involved in the program at that time were Dr. Dick Rempel, Dr. Robert Heckel, and Dr. Don Weatherbee.

In 1970 students enthusiastically grabbed up seminars which were required for C.U. credit. As the student population changed, however, the seminars became ill-attended. Eventually it became difficult for students to obtain a meaningful experience from their C.U. projects. Therefore, standards for participation in C.U. were raised to help insure that students can undertake independent study successfully.

When the program was undergoing a facelift, Dean Fleischel said they were holding back on publicity until the 399 honors section is approved. The approval did not come, however, until this past spring semester. Also, there was a question of clarification on how new publicity posters should read.

Dean Fleischel directs a mature students program and a self-study seminar program in addition to Interdisciplinary Independent Study. Her time is spent where it is most needed. Concerning I.S., she said, "It is a great experience for those students who are self-disciplined enough and interested in their projects. It is easy to be interested for a month, but a student must maintain interest for a semester. If a project is rich enough, it will sustain involvement over a semester's time. This is why we must be careful on the selection process. It is very disheartening for a student to attempt 15 hours of credit only to find out in the middle of the semester he is no longer interested in the project or can't complete it or he is more at home in a traditional classroom."

Interdisciplinary Independent Study is a way for students to express themselves outside of class under the direction of faculty members for one semester. The project does not have to be in the student's chosen field, but must be approved by faculty advisors.

Research Not Cut, But Increases Denied

BY MARION ELLIOTT
News Editor

No drastic cutbacks are expected in the amount of research carried on by USC's various research centers despite announced cutbacks in University funds for such research, according to directors of the research institutes.

The Administration announced last week that University funds for research would be curtailed. Bernard Dietwyler, vice president of finance, said research institutes will not receive requested increases for the coming year.

Several institute directors interviewed this week said their projects are heavily financed by grants outside the University. As such they do not expect any substantial decreases in the quantity or quality of research for their institutes.

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research should be able to maintain the same level of research as in the past, according to Director Olin Pugh. "We have experienced some curtailment in our operating budget," Pugh said, "but it will affect travel, supplies and equipment. The Bureau will be able to start any new programs, however the level of professional service offered to the community should not be affected," Pugh said.

"State appropriations along with volunteer grants help fund us," Pugh said, adding, "I have no particular gripe with the University concerning its actions. We're just sorry we couldn't do better."

The University funds for the Social Problems Research Institute are being cut about $10,000 according to Director Robert Heckel. "Curtailment will not affect us a lot since only about twenty percent of our funds come from the University," Heckel said. The institute's travel budget was what will be affected the most according to Heckel. "If this is our most benificial year, then we're in good shape," he said.

The curriculum will cause primarily a personnel problem for the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, according to Director Robert Stephenson. Some staff positions that could be cut will not be filled, Stephenson said.

"We're getting nothing new we have asked for. Supplies will be cut some. We've been trying to operate in the most economical way possible and now we're going to have to do even better."

Personnel problems will also be the major effect of the administration's Bureau of Governmental Research, according to Director Robert Staudemire. "We won't be able to fill certain vacancies," he said. "We're not getting any major increase and I will have to down in various departments to help those departments that urgently need help," Staudemire said. "I can't really complain. Outside help from grants and so forth help us a lot."

The Traffic and Transportation Center is taking about a 25 percent cut in funds, Director Robert Roberts said. "We have not used all of our allotted budget last year and did not use 60 percent of it prior to this year," Roberts said. "Most of our research has been funded by outside sources."

The Institute of International Studies will experience some cut in travel and supplies, according to Director Richard Walker. "We are not planning to cut any funds to the Institute's funds comes from the University," Walker said. "We have had minimal University funds and I don't think the curtailment will have much effect on us," he said.

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