

## Friday @ the Center: February 8, 2008

### Dealing with Problem Students: #3:

**Delinquent Dan or Debby (DD):** This student does not complete all the course work, for some reason or other. Do you assign 0 credit for the missing work and then compute the course grade, which might be an "E" (Failing) if the assignment carried a lot of weight? Or do you assign a course grade of "I" (Incomplete) or "N" (In-Progress)?

First of all, it is a good idea to indicate on your syllabus which assignments *must* be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course. For example, I always require that a student complete all major course papers and exams in order to receive a passing grade. That way DD cannot opt out of a major assignment and receive a 0, but still get a course grade of "C" because of receiving high marks on other assignments.

Secondly, be aware that the "N" (In-Progress) grade can only be used in specified courses in which a final grade is dependent upon additional work (Honors Project credits, for example). Departments must formally request the "N" grade option to be assigned to a course during the catalog cycle. An individual instructor can't spontaneously decide to assign a "N." Students must complete the work within one calendar year, or the "N" becomes permanent. A permanent "N" does not affect the student's GPA, but the student is not able to finish the course after the year has elapsed.

Someone who becomes DD because of absence during the quarter due to illness or an acceptable emergency (your call—I'd avoid endorsing the two-week trip to Hawaii) may be given an "I" (Incomplete), but the student is responsible to request the grade as well as make sure it is removed. The two of you must agree to use the "I" *before* the final exam or last class session. Students who receive an Incomplete must complete the course work within one calendar year or the "I" becomes an "E" (Failing). An "E" represents insufficient attainment, and no college credit is awarded for that course.

### Lilly Fellows Network Exchange: Roots of Civil Rights

"Returning to the Roots of Civil Rights" is a Lilly Fellows Network Exchange program to be held June 3-15, 2008. It consists of a four-day seminar at Geneva College (June 3-6), followed by an eight-day bus tour (June 7-15). Participants will first study the Civil Rights Movement and learn about a Geneva student program called "Returning to the Roots of Civil Rights," exploring ways that similar programs might be implemented at their own institution. At the conclusion of the on-campus seminar, participants will then depart on a tour of key sites of the Movement, which will include interactions with a diverse group of Movement veterans. Twelve scholars and professionals from LF Network institutions will be selected to participate.

- Preference will be given to those persons who can participate in both the seminar and the tour.
- The registration fee for both the seminar and the tour is a \$150 non-refundable deposit.
- Seminar/tour participants will have the following expenses paid: Travel to/from Geneva College (up to \$400 reimbursable), all of the meals associated with the seminar aspect of this event, and lodging.
- Registration deadline is: **March 14, 2008**
- Learn more about this program and download an application form at <http://www.geneva.edu/object/crbt>.

### Grants, Grants, Grants

Have you submitted a Faculty Scholarship Profile form lately? This profile allows the SPU grant-writing and fundraising staff to be aware of your research needs and better meet them. Using the information you provide in the Faculty Profile, we are able to send prospective grants your way as new opportunities are announced. Your Faculty Scholarship Profile should be renewed annually, or as your interests and grant needs change. The form can be downloaded as an interactive PDF at <http://www.spu.edu/depts/csfd/>. Submit completed forms to Laura Lundahl, Academic Grant Writer, at [lundahl@spu.edu](mailto:lundahl@spu.edu). You can also generate some of your own possibilities by consulting the February edition of *The Grant Advisor*, accessible through on-campus computers at <http://grantadvisor.com/tgaplus/>. *The Grant Advisor* contains 20-25 full program reviews and over 300 listings of grant and fellowship programs. If this data base generates any possibilities, be sure to contact Laura for an initial conversation about your ideas and the grant writing process.

And, I'll leave you with this provocative quotation from a recent *Inside Higher Education* essay on professorial attire: "There is something about the combination of denim and tenure that is inherently preposterous" (Roger Kimball). Stuffy snob or savvy sage?



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