NOTES

Pass/Fail provides needed flexibility

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The effect. "We’d need to find some way to get around that." Concourse is the newest of the three special programs in the freshman year. Neither of the two Concourse staff members questioned seemed to think Freshman Pass-Fail was essential to the program, although both indicated that its termination would be detrimental to the program.

Assistant Professor of Humanities Tracy Merritt, while he acknowledged that the termination of pass-fail would probably have an "institutional" effect on Concourse, Merret said he didn’t think "pass/fail had any effect in Concourse’s initiatives." While Merritt was critical of the effect of pass-fail on the humanities core curriculum, he added, "In Concourse, we learned to make good use of it. I think we have certain other ways of bringing suitable pressure to bear on students." There’s more student faculty contact in the program, he explained.

In the Physics core curriculum, "the existence of pass-fail has made it possible to have more flexible evaluation schemes," according to Professor of Physics Robert I. Hulsizer. "We treat students in the program on a case-by-case basis and if they feel they’ve mastered a subject, they can leave that subject behind. The students can work to fulfill them on their own time. Grading, said, "would be enough of an irritant that she would fight hard to keep Concourse pass/fail." "I’m probably less crazy about pass/fail than anybody else," he said. In the program, said Associate Professor of Humanities Tracy Merritt, he acknowledged that the termination of pass-fail would probably have a "stifling" effect on Concourse. Merritt said he didn’t think "pass/fail had any effect in Concourse’s initiatives.

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