Humanities requirements to be changed

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sentiment on five options that had emerged as clear choices to be considered. Acommittee was sent to all teaching faculty (toward and toward-excluding, excluding only T.A.'s), explaining the options available. A ballot was then included so the faculty could indicate their choices.

The options outlined in the memo were those, according to Associate Dean of the School Donald Blackmer, that "were several areas of concern on some of the basic questions that have been raised - the questions of concentration, distribution, and the advisability of having some sort of core courses." The options were:

I. Certain subjects will be designated by stars or other markings in the catalog, because their content: a) lays great emphasis on the study of values, b) concerns itself with general problems, as opposed to narrow, disciplinary considerations; c) draw their subject matter from the past, and d) place strong emphasis on writing and discussion, and meet in small sections. Those starred subjects would carry twelve units of credit, and a student would be required to take two or three of them. Started subjects, under this option, could be drawn from any department in the school or related departments (i.e., the film and art courses in Course IV would be eligible).

II. The starred subjects, under this option, would be drawn classified advertising

from the area of Humanities, and would be administered wholly by the Department of Humanities.

III. This option calls for simply a three-subject distribution requirement and a three-subject concentration in one of the four fields that will be set up by the school. There would be no list of starred courses.

IV. Departments would be asked to limit their offerings for the distributions and concentrations to "mainstream" courses, but the requirement would otherwise be the same as Option III.

V. There would only be an eight-subject requirement; the subjects would have no restrictions put upon them.

All five of the options would divide the subjects under the requirement into four areas: the Humanities, the Arts, Foreign Languages, and Social Sciences. Distribution requirements involve taking one subject from each of three areas, while concentration requirements involve taking three subjects within an area. Various requirements would be allowed to overlap; for example, under Option I a subject could be used to satisfy the "starred course" requirement and either the distribution or the concentration requirement.

The results of this study, which Blackmer said would be brought to the Committee on Educational Policy this week for study, showed a first-preference choice for Options IV (22 votes), I and V (22 votes each). "The results were somewhat clouded by the fact that we did not state a clear voting method," Blackmer said, "and so we got some different ways of rating the options, with lots of comments in the margins, and so forth.

"I hope that by use of this poll, we can narrow the options down to two or three clear-cut choices," Blackmer said, "Maybe in this way, we can get to the bottom of the educational policy."