

9
HERE AT STONY BROOK - Monday, Feb. 21, 1983

THEME UP AND OUT

How does a university decide which courses to offer and which to ignore? Who makes these decisions, anyway? And why, some people wonder, is education always changing?

Hi, everybody. This is Al Oickle. I'm with the Office of University News Services at the State University of New York, here at Stony Brook. And that is the name of this program: "Here at Stony Brook."

Today, we will be talking with two faculty members at Stony Brook about that academic menu called "the curriculum."

~~xxxxxxMarkxxVanxxDore~~ Professors John Truxal and Alan Tucker have spent a good deal of time in recent months thinking about the subject. I hope you will join us for this discussion.

THEME UP AND UNDER

Mark Van Doren, in his classic study, entitled "Liberal Education," acknowledged that "any college can be better than it is." How can this be done? Dr. Van Doren suggested that all colleges would be better "if those in charge...considered together, at regular intervals, the ideal college curriculum." Princeton President William G. Bowen once remarked: "The surest way to guarantee a long, disputatious, unsettled and unsettling faculty meeting is to bring to the floor any proposal for a change in the...undergraduate program." ~~Nationally~~ The Sloan Foundation, taking a broad view of all American education, has concluded that "one of these regular intervals" for a review has come. Indeed, the Foundation has dared to suggest that what is needed is "The New Liberal Arts", as the Foundation has named it. At Stony Brook, a Curriculum Review Committee has just issued an interim report that titles the very first section, "The Need for Change."

John Truxal and Alan Tucker of the Stony Brook faculty are involved both nationally and in ^{locally curriculum} ~~curriculum~~ review. Dr. Truxal is distinguished teaching professor in Technology and Society in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, here at Stony Brook. Dr. Truxal, why does education seem to change so much?

Alan Tucker is professor and chairperson of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics. Like Dr. Truxal, he spent time last summer ---in his case, at Williams College--- considering the overall needs for change in education. And, like John Truxal, he has been on the Stony Brook Curriculum Review Committee.

Dr. Tucker, is the Sloan Foundation's opening up of discussion about quantitative skills going to help improve college education generally?

- INTERVIEW TRUXAL/TUCKER: - Why change? - 4 R's -
 - Can a firm core be established?
 - Can all departments contribute to the general liberal education of all undergraduates?
 - Is education made vulnerable by its seeming readiness to change? (e.g., vocationalism of mid-'70s)
 - What impact do national groups have on individual campuses?
 - Is there validity in fear of homogenization?

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- At Stony Brook: -Why need to change? (Priority shift to undergraduate emphasis)
 -Committee's ~~proposals~~ proposals
 -~~Any~~ Any danger departments not adopting an overall report for change?
 -Examples of success stories
 -Is the core curriculum going to require a different kind of student?
 - Socio-academic environment changes
 - Commissioner Angrum's 4-16 proposal

opens up ideas for new structure; e.g., 5-3-4-4

THEME UP AND UNDER at 28:00 28:00 28:00

That's Here at Stony Brook for another week. We'll return to WUSB next Monday at 6 p.m. Will you be here with us? I hope so. Until then, this is Al Oickle. So long, everybody.