

Soc Sci Faculty - FYI - J



A unit of The Connecticut State University

## WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Danbury, Connecticut 06810

To: Dr. George Linabury, Coordinator WIC  
From: Dr. John Caruso Jr., WIC Member *JCA*  
Re: Report of 14 April & Memos(Mizer/Dozier) of 24/26 April  
Date: 02 May/89

I support the right of my colleagues in the Social Science & History Departments to modify(per your 14 April Memo)the unanimously approved WIC proposal for an 18 s.h. international studies minor.

However, I share the professional concern of Professor Mizer that our highly refined recommendation for a multidisciplinary/multischool 18 s.h. international studies minor rather than being modified to meet university/curriculum committee standards was dismantled and replaced with:

- 1) a rationale to be written by one professor(Dr. Linabury)versus brainstorming within the WIC membership.
- 2) a minor composed of four(12 s.h.) unidentified A&S 200 level courses versus an original list of 65 suggested 200-300 level courses categorized into six subject areas incorporating all three schools.
- 3) a minor certified by either of two Social Science/History chairpersons.
- 4) a minor supplemented by two(6 s.h.)100 level NWC courses, when one original purpose was to scrupulously avoid duplicating core curriculum requirements.

Since the original proposal was developed by our Ad Hoc committee and approved unanimously by the WIC, it was a violation of the committee process and condescending for you to agree to rewrite the proposal and submit it to both departments in the Fall without discussion by or approval of the WIC membership.

Associate Dean Dozier in a most eloquent and sensitive letter restated on April 26, what was suggested approximately three years ago. Namely, that we work together as humanistic and learned colleagues to replace the term "Non-Western Cultures" with a more descriptive and positive label thus continuing to encourage an appreciation for cultural diversity on our public campus.

cc:VP Steinkrauss  
Deans Bernstein, Hawkes, Stewart  
Prof. Bannister  
WIC Membership



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Executive Assistant to the President

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JB

To: Mr. Jerry Bannister  
Chairman, Social Science Department

From: Daryle J. Dennis, *Daryle J. Dennis*  
Executive Assistant to the President

Date: May 11, 1989

Richard Dozier, as Associate Dean of Students, is a member of the administrative faculty. We respect his academic freedom and his right to express his point of view. However, I want to stress that he is a member of a bargaining unit and not a member of management. Consequently, he does not speak for or represent the management nor the President of the university.

Please share this information with your colleagues.

jpb

Truman  
FYI  
J

April 28, 1989

TO: Mr. H. Richard Dozier  
Associate Dean of Student Affairs

FROM: Mr. Jerry Bannister *J Bannister*  
Associate Professor of Social Sciences

RE: Your Memorandum (April 26) to WIC Executive Committee

This letter is my personal opinion and is not to be considered as an official departmental statement.

Although I find the syntax of your memo difficult to follow, I consider its tone offensive:

- (a) by the degree of hostility you have expressed towards the departments of Social Sciences, and History and Nonwestern Cultures.
- (b) by the level of argument you have presented. By your own type of logic, you should not have used the expression "middle easterner." The "middle" of what? East of what?

I want to emphasize that the term "nonwestern culture" was adopted many years ago for the primary purpose of stressing to our students that an acceptable college education should incorporate an in-depth study of at least one culture that is neither European nor American. As Dr. Linabury stated in the third paragraph of his memo of April 14, the prefix, "non," modifies the word, "western," and implies nothing about the word, "culture." Hence, the phrase, "nonwestern culture," should not be interpreted as a demeaning phrase. The title of each course is not "nonwestern," but rather, for example, "Cultures of India". The "NWC" is merely a catalog grouping of courses.

I recognize that the term, "nonwestern cultures," is not ideal because it says what a culture is not. The redeeming feature of "nonwestern culture" is that it is at least geographically restrictive, whereas other suggested phrases (such as area studies, global studies, world cultures, etc.) encompass the entire world.

cc: Deans Bernstein, Hawkes, Stewart  
Dr Steinkrauss  
Dr. Leopold  
WIC Executive Committee