



FACULTY WORRIED ABOUT GEN ED REFORM

Reform of General Education is on the horizon and faculty are worried. "I worry that our classic liberal education, the foundation of our moral greatness, is being thrown out the window," complained an unnamed Potter College faculty member. "We'd like to see another 20 hours of liberal arts courses with either "Sophistry, Citizenship, and Self" or "Put the You in University" required of all freshmen.

"We worry that the stringent foreign language requirements in this plan are far too demanding for today's students," a Greek chorus of 18 CHHS faculty members intoned in unison.

"I worry about our community college

transfers," explained Owensboro faculty member Beulette Jones. "It is simply unjust to expect kids from the sticks and returning professionals to learn the same kind of complex things as normal college students. Also, we'd prefer to just keep praising them and collecting their tuition and fees, rather than having to learn how to teach new things to disinterested students."

"We know that all college students choose their school by comparing Gen Ed programs and choosing the cheapest, easiest one," explained Provost Angus G. Emslie. "That is why we are diverting tuition revenues toward the construction of a \$16 million Colonnade Plan Thinknasium, replete with

oversized thought-sofas, on the lower level of the football stadium next to the football team's weight room and open to the general student population on Thursdays 10 pm to 1 am. Extra hours are even available for season-ticket holders."

Students seem generally enthusiastic about the "Colonnade Plan" idea, though many are somewhat hazy on the details. "The name sounds like ass, but at least I can transfer in and skip learning a language," chuckled BG Tech student Johnson Black. "Hell, I can already say 'hamburger' in any damn country in the world and get a hot beef sandwich. Also, 39 is still less than 44, right?"

THE WESTERN™ UNVEILS NEW SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

In the wake of the recent social media crisis, The Western™ is revising its policies. "This is a university, dammit!" exclaimed one unnerved Wetherby administrator. "We can't have people thinking and talking freely!"

According to Chief of Staff Deborah Wilkins, federal and international copyright and trademark law prohibits anyone from uttering the name of Gary Ransdell, whom she described as "He Who Must Not Be Named Without Prior Legal Approval And Some Kind Of Revenue-Sharing Agreement."

"Nobody can use my stuff in ways that we don't like," claimed Ransdell. "And nobody's pimpin' my good name without cutting me in first! You hear me, @PimpRansdell!!!!!"

In an effort to benefit from the crisis, the Office of the General Counsel has unleashed a social media bot that will post Gary Ransdell-penned "thought blasts" every 8.4 minutes on

any Facebook account in which The Western™-related terms or images appear. The administration will also begin preemptive radar monitoring of carrier pigeons in local airspace.

Media Maven Corie Martin assured the campus community that no student had been punished except in enjoyable ways, and that the handful of rabble-rousers are no longer students at The Western™ and never had been anyway, as the Banner records now clearly show.

Students are not amused. "I posted this picture on Facebook of Big Red eating my head at a basketball game," commented Tri Delt sister Emily Tirgus. "Next thing you know something called 'GaryWKUbot' posted some crap about how my friends should donate to the Augenstein Alumni Center. Sixty-seven of those freakin' posts on my wall, each with a hotlink to some enter-your-bank-account-info site, before I woke up and deleted my

picture. And that sucked, 'cause my butt looked great in that shot."

New Policy 6.7099810.3481 dictates that The Western™ will prohibit faculty from speaking, uttering, writing, mouthing, or signaling in any way outside of class. Exceptions will be granted for faculty who wish to praise or genuflect before department heads, deans, vice presidents, or President Ransdell, as long as proper forms are submitted six weeks in advance. Faculty will be bussed to each football and basketball game, where they will be required to cheer, which is an "acceptable utterance" under the new policy. When not teaching or cheering, faculty will be kept in a luxurious, well-appointed cinder block and barbed-wire facility in the area formerly designated for the Greek Village. Eventually, faculty will be replaced by androids pre-programmed with appropriate, unbounded, enthusiasm for The Western™.

BRANDING TEAM WORK NEARS CONCLUSION

The Gary A. Ransdell Hall Branding Committee convened for its third meeting last Tuesday but failed to agree on a strategic focus. "We just can't decide which parts of Gary's amazingness we will showcase in our efforts to develop the building's market image," explained one committee insider. The committee has narrowed the choice of building slogans down to several finalists:

- I Can't Believe It's Not Education
- This Cupola Goes to Eleven
- Don't Hate Me Because I'm Ransdell
- We Mold Twomowwo's Weaders
- It's Elementary, My Dear Educators (and psychology)
- Jewelry Barn and Pawn Shop! Jewelry Barn and Pawn Shop! (contract pending)

The committee agreed to purchase artwork for the atrium, including an anatomically correct Italian marble sculpture of an anonymous nude male entitled "Maximum Leader."



From idiots to heroes: Twitter users @DerpinaWilkins, @PimpRansdell, and @LolAngusEmslie (Top to Bottom) fall afoul of social medial policy.

Email us at thewestern.bigredtool@gmail.com

Follow us on Twitter @TheBigRedTool

Like us on Facebook

Visit us at www.bigredtool.com

Send us flowers, **no tulips please**

ALTERNATIVE GEN ED PLANS REVEALED

Following the first official reading of the new General Education plan in the University Senate, rumors of counter-offers and competing proposals have abounded. The Big Red Tool's network of super spies has gathered a selection of alternative plans for Gen Ed at The Western™ from various programs and individuals across campus.

Gordon Ford College: 24-hour program focusing on practical job skills, to attract potential students away from University of Phoenix. The program calls for a minimum of 15 hours in Ayn Rand Studies, including the required junior seminar "Selfishness is Next to Godliness," plus a third-shift service learning internship at White Castle on Scottsville Road.

Ogden College: Limited 21-hour program focusing on math, science, and computer skills. Students within Ogden College forbidden from entering FAC, Cherry Hall, the SAE Fraternity, or

Hilligans. Non-science student majors restricted to "Science for Dumb Asses 55E" survey courses taught by second-year undergrad chemistry majors.

Potter College: 72 hours of humanities, including at least two courses from every department in PCAL, as well as the nine-hour, year-long cross-disciplinary seminar "World Thought through Gentle Humanistic Interpretive Dance and Music." Undergrads not allowed to take courses in Folk Studies.

Commonwealth College: No time to draw up proposal; too busy actually teaching classes and cleaning urinals.

History Department: All incoming students required to major in History. Up to four additional majors may be added at student's discretion.

Modern Languages Department: No plan created since all tenured faculty currently in Europe teaching study abroad courses.

Peter "Meatgrinder" Hamburger: No

General Education whatsoever, since otherwise Math majors will not be able to complete the necessary sequence of courses leading to senior capstone in Combinatorics, nonlinear sigma models, Riemannian manifolds, and long division.

Provost Angus G. Emslie: 9-hour basic skills program to verify that all students can sign tuition and fees checks, read and write short sentences, use computer without injury, and dial 911 if poisons ingested. All requirements may be tested out of or waived by submitting an Exception Form, including filing fee of \$5,000 and the login names and passwords of their Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit accounts. (An identical program was proposed by University College Associate Dean Merrill Price as an idle comment during a recent Gen Ed roundtable after a long look at her smartphone, though both dismissed this as "mere coincidence.")

NEW MERIT "FINGER GUNS" POLICY ANNOUNCED

At a news conference Thursday, it was announced that the old-fashioned, money-based faculty merit reward system will be overhauled. "The Western™ is a family," insisted President Ransdell. "Family members don't pay each other when one of them does something good. That's silly."

Instead of paying monetary rewards for noteworthy professional accomplishments, Ransdell will apply a distillation of his patented graduation "hug, kiss, and back-slap" congratulatory system to the classroom and cubicle. The full benefit table has not yet been released, but scaled rewards will include:

- Researchers who publish in a top-tier journal will receive three full-body hugs, a back-slap, and at least 1.5 thumbs-up from an administrator at a level no lower than associate dean; publication in a second-tier or lower journal will receive at least a pair of finger guns and a wink from a full professor in an appropriate discipline;
- A researcher whose work is mentioned on local broadcast media will earn a "nice one, buddy!!" or possibly a "nice one, [insert name here]!!" from Dr. Ransdell at the annual pancake breakfast. Researchers who are to be interviewed about their work on national broadcast media will be replaced by Dr. Ransdell;
- Scholars who earn an external grant of more than \$500 will receive three full-body hugs and a peck on the lips (open mouth if over \$7,500) from Gordon Baylis; internal grant winners will receive a cheek kiss, a full-body hug, and two back-slaps from their department head.

Ransdell considered adding butt-slaps and Red-Towel twirls to the reward scale but decided that they should be reserved solely for rewarding athletes and athletic administrators. "Athletics deserves to have something special for themselves, beyond just the bloated student fees they receive. All the rewards can't go to the academic side of the house!" he explained as he shot finger guns and a wink toward a faculty member whose MacArthur-funded 10-year research project on race bias in higher education appeared in a *Time* magazine article.

For administrators ranked dean or higher and athletic coaches, The Western™ will continue to follow business model merit systems, which permit enormous annual base salary increases based on voluntary self-evaluations or claims of "good mojo."

STUDENT PREPARES FOR ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE

Elgin Jones is prepared to face the end of the reign of living humans on The Western's™ campus. Since viewing the pilot episode of AMC's hit series "The Walking Dead" last March, Jones has been convinced that the apocalypse approaches.

"The signs are all around us," cautioned Jones. "That odd whiff of dog food when the wind is right, declining student enrollment, the basketball team winning the Sun Belt tourney, roof leaks in Ransdell Hall. The The Western™ world is dying."

The fourth-year Pikeville sophomore has been preparing since last spring. "The living dead can't find you if you smell like them," confided Jones. "I haven't showered since that heat wave in September." Jones consumes a Cheetos-rich diet to make his brain and liver "less delicious" and has not attended classes since Mardi Gras. Instead, he spends his days stockpiling essential supplies in his Park Street rental, including his complete state quarters collection, high-caliber handguns, and Rainbow Skittles ("You'll never find those in the End Times!").

Jones suspects that his MATH 116 instructor, SGA President Billy Stevens, and that lady who gave him the parking ticket yesterday may be infected already. "I can't decide who to stab in the eye socket first," he mused.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

- Ransdell, Obama, David Cameron watch together as The Western™ wins basketball game. In unrelated news, England declares war on US.
- The Western™ apologizes for mistakenly ordering shutdown of Owensboro junior Harold Balzac's Twitter feed. "It was an honest, if hilarious, misunderstanding," claims Deborah Wilkins.
- Poll shows 95% of The Western™ faculty can't say "International Reach" without long pause, significant look.
- New retention plan encourages faculty to host slumber parties for students to create sense of family. "I loved sleeping with my students," raves one professor.
- Republicans to give surprise presidential nomination to Chuck Norris, after his re-virgining ceremony and signing of South Carolina "purity pledge."
- Henry Hardin statue outside Cherry to resume teaching UC 175 in Fall 2012.
- To increase graduation rates, so-called "helicopter parents" to be allowed to take classes for progeny; double tuition rates to apply. Helicopter parent helipad atop Garrett funded with DELO money.
- "Shave the Provost" Facebook group reaches 500,000 likes.
- The Western™ Health Services declared the sole approved provider by Anthem: co-pays double; mandatory hill and stadium runs replace drug plan.
- New debate proposal for Gen Ed plan before Senate calls for bare-knuckle free-for-all, followed by sexy pajama pillow fight, kissing.
- To clear land for parking lot, FaCET offices moved to Old Mall to reflect "centrality" of teaching to university mission.
- Army of honey badgers recruited to aid student retention rates.