

## Summary of students' remarks from workshop, February 20, 2002

### Student Panel

Kristen Hurley, Sociology/Elementary Education, senior

Gina Paulson, Theater, junior

Scott Pursner, International Studies, freshman

Fayola Williams, Sociology, sophomore

- Gina Paulson pointed out that students have different learning styles, which professors need to take into account.
- She stated that students do not like "superfluous" reading, reading that is not directly related to and reinforced in the class.
- Several of the students also complained about the high cost of textbooks, especially for books that were not used intensively in classes (Prof. Bellard from the library noted in the discussion period that faculty can ask the library to order the textbooks to give students an option of reading the assignments without purchasing the texts).
- Gina stated that she enjoys learning in groups, but that professors need to monitor the groups to make sure that they're working effectively.
- She thought it was valuable for classes to give students practice in giving presentations.
- She encouraged professors to update their reading lists and lectures so that they will continue to be timely and relevant to students.
- She disapproved of professors who make many changes in their syllabi during the semester. Scott Pursner amplified this, complaining that some professors make it difficult for him to organize his work for the semester because they do not hand out syllabi until some weeks into the semester, or change the course extensively.
- Fayola Williams and Kristen Hurley both mentioned the importance of enthusiasm and accessibility in their professors. Students appreciate professors who interact directly with the students, who involve the students in the classes, who make themselves available to the students outside of class, and who care about the students. Professors can be intimidating for the students, and a professor's openness can help make students feel comfortable about asking questions or coming for help. Scott Pursner described an unpleasant experience in one class where the professor put down students who gave incorrect answers and dictated the correct answers to the class.
- Kristen Hurley described her learning style as one that does not do well with professors who just lecture; she prefers more active learning, getting involved in independent learning such as research projects, and cooperative learning.
- She also appreciated it when professors provide rubrics for students for particular assignments, so students will know what the professor's expectations are
- She thinks it's useful to give students different ways to be assessed besides tests.

In the discussion period, students stated that they found the General Education distribution requirement valuable, as they gave them exposure to a variety of topics, and that they appreciated the good advising that they got from Adelphi professors.

Summary prepared by Lawrence Hobbie