

Three-Hour Course Base Criticized; Option Asked

By DENNIS NELSON
Of the Emerald

"Departments within the University should offer undergraduates the option to receive an additional one or two hours of credit for independent study in existing three-hour courses."

This recommendation is currently being presented to the faculty and is the result of an intensive study by the Course Base and Degree Requirements Committee which was formed under the ASUO Vice-President Mike Donahue.

The purpose of this committee was to "evaluate both subjectively and objectively the status of the three-hour course base as it exists at the University." In a report just released, the committee felt the three-hour course base had the following weaknesses:

- It does not always offer an intensive enough development of the subjective matter.
- The three-hour course may stifle educational experimentation and innovation.
- It necessitates that a student take five or more courses per term to maintain an average load of study.
- Five or more courses create an academic overload under which adequate preparation in some courses is carried on at the expense of other courses.

The committee circulated a questionnaire to the heads of departments at the University concerning their willingness or

lack of willingness to alter present class structure.

Among the positive responses, a chairman wrote, "there is a place for one hour courses, two hour courses, three hour courses, and four and five hour courses. In other words, I advocate maximum flexibility in the hours designated so as to 'fit' between the nature of the offering and the hours to be devoted to it."

On the other hand some department heads indicated they would not like to teach a class that met four to five times a week. One department head stated, "It seems to me that when a student is required to meet a class four to five times a week, he is not given ample time to digest and think about the material that he has to read and talk about."

The committee also corresponded with other universities which are currently operating on some system other than the three hour course base.

The dean of the college of Letters and Sciences at UCLA said of their system, "We adopted a standard basic course of

four quarter units and now state our requirements in terms of 'courses' rather than units . . . and we abandoned the former practice of basing course (or unit) value on the number of hours a class meets. Departments may schedule class meetings in any way they choose.

"This system assures that a student will normally take only four courses per quarter and allows much greater flexibility to departments and individual instructors in planning their courses.

"One striking result of the new system has been that many fewer students have been subject to probation or dismissal and the number of students on the dean's list has been more than doubled."

The committee is now eliciting faculty advice and support for the recommendation. The committee felt "that faculty-student co-operation has been the key to the progress that has already been made in these areas."

It urged the continuation of the committee until its work is completed or given over to another student-faculty organ.

Reporter Notices Change in China

By WANDALYN RICE
Of the Emerald

"There was everywhere a spirit of improvement in Red China," Lisa Hobbs told listeners Friday night in the last speech on the "Three Days of Concern in Vietnam" program.

In 1965, Mrs. Hobbs, a staff writer for the San Francisco Examiner, spent 26 days in Red China, thus becoming the first reporter from an American publication in ten years to visit that country.

Throughout her speech, Mrs. Hobbs emphasized the improvements that the Chinese have made under communism, and also the "very ethnocentric" nature of Chinese nationalism.

The improvements the Chinese have made, she said, are not great, but "the basis (what they have started from) is so low that there is a long, long way they can go" on their own efforts.

Even small improvements, she explained are great compared to China's past.

She described meeting a barely literate man in a commune who was trying to build a machine in order to help the commune.

"The point," she said, "is not that the machine didn't work, because it didn't," . . . but that the farmer "barely out of the middle ages," thought of himself as a "maker of machines."

This formation of "a socialist conscience" has been a major accomplishment of the Red Chinese government.

Mrs. Hobbs said that 50 per cent of the Chinese population is under 20 and said that young people are "ignorant of the outside world."

During the tour, Mrs. Hobbs said she "sad the feeling they (the Red Chinese) were slightly contemptuous." Later, when she talked to others who had been in China, they agreed that the Chinese are contemptuous of those who aren't Chinese.

Mrs. Hobbs, in the question period following the speech, expressed the fear that the ignorance and ethnocentrism of the younger Chinese would make them dangerous, because "they feel that they've got the gospel . . ."

Accompanying the speech, Mrs. Hobbs showed slides she had taken on her 26-day tour. An Australian citizen, she did not tell the Chinese that she was a reporter for the Examiner.

She told of watching demonstrations against the war in Vietnam and of visiting Chinese Universities where students were regularly asked to criticize themselves because of their errors in upholding the communist ideology.

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Columbia Protestors Face Counter Attack

NEW YORK (AP)—An impatient faction of the Columbia University student body threw up a blockade Monday to squeeze off a protest by fellow students that has disrupted the Ivy League school for a week.

Columbia's President Grayson Kirk announced late Sunday that the Ivy League school would be closed again pending "discussions relating to a settlement of the present controversy," adding: "Normal operations will resume again as soon as possible."

But some students eager for the school to return to normal formed what they called the Majority Coalition to end the protest and threw up a blockade around Low Memorial Library Sunday night.

They tightened it this morning, saying they were cutting off all food and medical supplies for about 100 protesters inside. About 200 students manned the blockade.

The student protest, which began a week ago, led to suspension of night classes for three days last week and to suspension of day classes Friday.

School authorities estimate that 500 to 600 students are occupying the buildings and Kirk's offices in Low Library.

The university's total enrollment is 27,500.

The protesters originally de-

manded halting of construction of a gymnasium on a portion of a Harlem park adjoining the university, and an end to Columbia's participation in a defense-oriented government research project.

The university stopped construction of the gym. However, the student rebels demanded amnesty for all demonstrators and an end to what they called the administration's "repressive rule."

At a meeting Sunday morning, the university's professors voted against granting amnesty to the demonstrators, echoing an earlier action by the Columbia board of trustees.

The other campus structures being occupied are Hamilton Hall, Fayer-Weather Hall, Avery Hall, and the Mathematics Building.

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