

Opinion on the GETF Proposal

Dear Deborah,

One of the original goal statements made and approved by the faculty in 2005 expressed that the program will “expand their [student] viewpoints in order to prepare them to function as intelligent, discerning and responsible citizens in our global society,” (GETF, 2005, p. 48). The implication being these students, newly graduated and citizens to the community will have been the beneficiaries of a relative, current and informative educational curriculum at Southern. Hold that thought, and ask the following question regardless of discipline; what do most students do after graduating? They seek and hope to find a job, a career if possible, with a high percentage entering the world of commerce (business). Further, these students regardless of degree become financially responsible citizens, they pay rent or a mortgage, they have a credit card payment(s), invest in a 401k, make car payment, student loan, they pay taxes and utilities and shop for groceries, paying much of these expenses through a checking account system of some kind. With the exception of students graduating from the school of business the LEP at Southern seems to have overlooked the effort to prepare the 21st century graduating Southern student to be economical and financially responsible citizens.

Regardless, but still cognizant of the current financial crises existing today, an atmosphere of difficult economic and financial times lies ahead. This atmosphere requires students to be better prepared by being knowledgeable of at least the fundamentals of commerce. Where else to be informed of these foundations than at the university. An unprecedented opportunity. Is there room in the proposal to include such a course? Did I miss an area within the tiers where this course could be possible?

When Ullian and Glinka ask the question “How does a scientist engage the world? A historian? An artist? A social scientist? I ask the question how does a business person engage the world? Business dominates our global society, it is the power that moves everything, be it medicine, politics, environment or art.

The LEP should be adjusted to take the issue of business and commerce into its program. A course such as “a conceptual foundation of business” could be a small addition to the students overall preparation to the new world of the 21st century.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Kustin
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