

Minutes of the Undergraduate Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2000
#7

Robert Wilkins, chair; Delmer Davis, secretary; Samuel Chuah, Ann Gibson, Patricia Mutch, Bill Richardson, April Summitt

**VOTING MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Emilio Garcia-Marenko

**NON-VOTING MEMBER
PRESENT**

Jack Stout

GUEST

April Summitt

PRAYER

The main agenda item for the meeting was a presentation by Jack Stout, chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, on the suggestions by that committee regarding how best to enhance the undergraduate enrollment, retention, and experience. He presented a brief history of strategic planning at Andrews, noting that the first comprehensive plan, in 1991, had centered on the need to improve undergraduate education at Andrews. He explained that the present recommendations were an attempt to fulfill that original strategic need. He highly recommended a book by L. Pope, entitled Colleges that Change Lives, indicating that this book, which centers on a variety of colleges in the United States, had been particularly influential in shaping his thinking about and his investigations of colleges (none of which could be described as "elitist") which have been successful in attracting and retaining students based on their various missions. He noted that he had visited a number of these institutions in order to learn their methods. He emphasized that a central theme in Pope's book is that successful colleges are those at which faculty relate to students in valuable ways beyond strictly classroom contacts. Finally, he noted that the presentation to the committee was part of a series of such presentations in which he hoped the faculty begin discussions of the recommendations and provide input to the Strategic Planning Committee as it continues to revise the recommendations prior to final presentation to the

**JACK STOUT
PRESENTATION FROM
STRATEGIC PLANNING
COMMITTEE ON
ENHANCING
UNDERGRADUATE
EDUCATION AT
ANDREWS UNIVERSITY**

Board next year.

He then presented by means of visuals the findings and recommendations of the committee. The following is a brief summary of the main items:

- Only about one-third of SDA freshmen are enrolled in SDA colleges and universities.
- Two-thirds of the SDA students attending four-year, non-SDA schools choose schools with higher entrance standards.
- Academically successful high school/academy students are under-represented in SDA colleges and universities. (At Andrews, 40% of freshmen are from the lower half of their graduating high school/academy classes.)
- Substantial numbers of SDA students plan for careers and majors that are often under-represented or unavailable in SDA schools.

Andrews should be able to attract more successful students by

- featuring the most popular and most successful programs in our communications with potential students
- making General Education an outstanding experience
- offering an exceptional Honors Program
- increasing opportunities for student research
- assessing more carefully how well General Education and other programs are working
- Andrews should be able to retain more students by
 - targeting students who are more academically successful in high school and academy

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISCUSSION

**EVIDENCE SUGGESTS
THAT MANY
SUCCESSFUL SDA
STUDENTS ARE NOT
ATTENDING SDA
COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES**

WAYS IN WHICH ANDREWS CAN INCREASE STUDENT ENROLLMENT

WAYS IN WHICH ANDREWS CAN INCREASE STUDENT RETENTION

-raising the minimum standards for admission as more academically successful students enroll

-offering more financial aid to students who are more likely to succeed

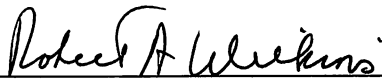
-networking students soon after arrival into a social environment which connects them with peers, faculty/staff, and the university mission

- Becoming more selective does not have to mean becoming elitist.
- But becoming more selective may impact our cultural diversity on campus, resulting in a need to think seriously about targeting some special programs (as other schools have done) to be certain that the Andrews heritage of diversity can be retained.
- Rethinking the Andrews experience in areas outside of academics is important, including a review of how well those "outside" experiences are communicating our mission values, how encouraging more students to live on campus might enhance the Andrews experience, and how best we might enhance the cultural richness of the university.

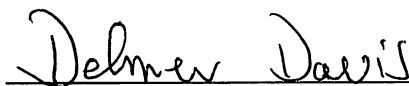
**MAKING SOME OF THE
RECOMMENDED
CHANGES WILL
RESULT IN OUR NEED
TO RETHINK RELATED
ISSUES**

In a final item for discussion, Bob Wilkins indicated that because David Penner has left Andrews University, there is a need to recommend a temporary replacement as chair of the Admissions Committee. The committee agreed that Dr. Gerry Coy should act as the chair during the summer until a replacement for Dr. Penner's university position had been located.

**GERRY COY TO CHAIR
THE ADMISSIONS
COMMITTEE FOR THE
SUMMER**



Robert Wilkins, chair



Delmer Davis, secretary