The Academic Review Board processed 211 student petitions related to requirements. In an attempt to expedite the work load, the Board tried a new procedure of having the chair deal directly with petitions that were obvious approvals, which accounted for 148 of the petitions. The Board met three times to deal with non-obvious petitions which totaled 63, out of which 16 were denials and 9 were exceptional approvals (largely cases of advisers having misinformed a student).

For the World Civilizations requirement, 12 petitions were denied and 69 approved (43 of them obvious cases). For the Culture option, there were 3 denials and 77 approvals (64 obvious). And, for the Distribution requirement, there was only 1 denial and 49 approvals (41 obvious).

The Board believes that the vast majority of the petitions should be unnecessary. In hope that the overall numbers of petitions will be reduced next year, the chair of the Board has met twice with Dean Glaser and Registrar Smith in order to clarify information students receive and to suggest several alterations in procedures. First and most importantly, the approved lists of courses have been brought up-to-date and are being made far more visible for students. Second, departmental transfer-of-credit representatives will immediately approve a course for Distribution and in obvious cases for the Culture Option as part of the on-line process of transferring credit. Third, at the Student Services desk in Dowling, students will be actively encouraged to check the lists of approved courses before filing a petition. If all goes well, next year's total of petitions should be cut by nearly 50 percent (mainly in the Distribution and Culture Option area).

Respectfully submitted,

Downing Cless
Academic Review Board, Chair