TO: THE FACULTY

FROM: Ric Arthur, Ellen Oxfeld Basu, Shank Gilkeson, Ron Liebowitz, Timi Mayer, Paul Monod, Roddey Reid, Burke Rochford, Don Wyatt

Enclosed is a proposal offered in the spirit of an amendment to the freshman program passed by the faculty in the March meeting. It is in the form of a new proposal because that program has already been voted on. Although this proposal makes only a few small changes, they are critical: they resolve problems inherent in the original proposal.

This proposal differs from the original in that:

--- the freshman seminars will serve as freshman writing courses for most students

--- a second writing course will be required only for those students who do less than satisfactory work in the writing component of the freshman seminar (B- or less)

--- the freshman seminar requirement is independent of the foundations requirement, which will remain in place unless modified by vote of the faculty

The chief advantages of this proposal are:

--- it reduces staffing problems in implementing a freshman seminar program

--- students with writing problems can be identified and given more attention

--- it minimizes the effect of freshman seminars on enrollments in foundations courses

--- it reduces the effect of freshman seminars on department requirements

We hope you will carefully consider this proposal and respond favorably at the April faculty meeting. Since the winter term issue will be voted on separately, we have not addressed it in this proposal.
TO: The Faculty

SUBJECT: A FRIENDLY COUNTERPROPOSAL FOR A FRESHMAN PROGRAM, TO BE COMPLETED IN THE FIRST THREE SEMESTERS

Section 1: OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the curricular proposals included in this resolution are as follows:

1. To increase the opportunities for students to enroll in small courses during their first three semesters at Middlebury.

** 2. To improve academic advising by assigning all freshmen to a faculty adviser who is also the instructor of their freshman seminar.

3. To increase the opportunities for students to work on the development of their writing skills early in their college careers.

4. To encourage freshmen to make intellectual connections across the traditional academic departments and disciplines.

5. To increase opportunities for members of the faculty to work together across departmental and divisional lines, and in so doing to move toward greater educational community.

SECTION 2: FRESHMAN SEMINARS

Freshman seminars are thematic courses which approach an area of intellectual inquiry from a perspective which attempts to make connections among a number of traditional disciplines (departments). The specific format of Freshman Seminars (one instructor, multi-instructor, common reading lists, etc.) will be determined by those faculty members teaching in the program. A Freshman Seminar will have an enrollment of no more than 15 students for each faculty member in the seminar. The Freshman Seminars will have an intensive writing component comparable to the present Freshman Writing courses.

**Since Freshman Seminars fulfill the writing guidelines proposed by the Freshman Writing Committee, they will count as a writing course. Should a student not perform satisfactory work in the writing component (B- or less), he or she will be required to take a second writing course.
All students shall enroll in a Freshman Seminar during their first term at Middlebury.

**These courses are primarily writing courses and do not fulfill present Foundation Courses requirements.

**It will be left to individual departments to decide whether a Freshman Seminar may satisfy departmental major requirements. Freshman Seminars should be seen as an opportunity for departments to develop their existing programs in new ways.

Instructors proposing new Freshman Seminars may apply for Faculty Development Grants to support their course development work.

**Freshman Seminar proposals will be approved by the Curriculum Committee, just like any new course.

SECTION 3: WRITING COURSES

Writing Courses will be defined according to the guidelines distributed by the Freshman Writing Committee on December 19, 1986.

Writing Courses may be free-standing courses or sections of larger courses.

Writing Courses (or writing sections of larger courses) will normally have an enrollment of no more than 15 students.

An ongoing faculty support and development program for the teaching of writing should be established. Support and professional services for students in need of developing basic skills should be strengthened.

SECTION 4: FRESHMAN FACULTY ADVISING

A booklet describing all fall term Freshman Seminars will be distributed to entering students in the summer prior to their arrival at Middlebury. (February freshmen will receive a comparable booklet describing spring term Seminars.) All entering students will register in advance for one Seminar. The instructor of this Seminar will be the freshman faculty advisor for all the students enrolled in the course.

Section 5: CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

All students must fulfill the following degree requirements:

1. One Freshman Seminar to be taken during the first semester at Middlebury.
**2. In the event of unsatisfactory work in the Freshman Seminar (B- or less) a student will take one writing course during the second or third semester at Middlebury.

**3. Foundations courses in three of the four divisional categories (Foreign Languages, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences). This requirement should normally be completed by the end of the third semester at Middlebury. It must be completed by the end of the fourth semester at Middlebury.

Students will declare their major no later than the third semester at Middlebury.

Within their available means, all departments will be expected to contribute to some aspects of the Freshman Program.

**SECTION 6: EFFECTIVE DATES

All sections of this resolution will become effective at the beginning of the 1988-89 year. They will have the status of graduation requirements for students beginning with the class of 1992. Students in earlier classes will be subject to the existing graduation requirements.

**SECTION 7: REVIEW

The Educational Council will undertake a complete review of the Freshman Core Program in the Fall of 1991 and report its findings to the faculty by December 1991.