

Proposal to the
Committee on Mission and Priorities
and the Committee on Academic Priorities

October 16, 2006

The following proposal is in response to Smith College's initiative, "**Re-imagining a Liberal Arts Education**" and the Strategic Direction to "**Prepare Women for Rewarding Lives in a Rapidly Changing World.**" The proposal specifically addresses the 2006 planning document statement, "As a women's college, Smith has a particular obligation to help students reflect systematically and deeply about how they imagine a fulfilling life."

Realizing Your Passion

As the first step to imagining a fulfilling life, I propose creating a course entitled "Realizing Your Passion." The course will guide students to discover what they most desire to do in their lives. And it will hopefully prevent the concern Carol Christ shared at the Round Table for Staff and Faculty on September 11, 2006 that a percentage of alumnae within 10 years of graduation are aimlessly drifting through entry-level jobs.

The course is intended as a first step on a path of self-realization. While this process is a life-long complex journey; it is also a well-documented road that should be shared with those who are at its beginning. The course will make each student aware of the factors that personally limit or influence her life choices. An inter-disciplinary curriculum will draw professors from religion, sociology, philosophy, psychology and economics to help students unravel their beliefs and actions and personalize their academic training.

Creative techniques in meditation, writing, art and movement will be used to inspire students to discover and/or recover their unique talents and dreams.

At the end of the course all students will have a roadmap to the realization of their life's passion.

I recommend the course be offered as a first-year seminar graded as pass/fail.

submitted by

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