

INTRO UP AND UNDER

Hi, everybody. The headline in my daily newspaper the other day read, "Colleges Criticized as 'Supermarkets.'" The story reported the latest in what has become a series of studies that are critical of America's educational system. This one was from the Association of American Colleges. Cries for reform have come in recent years also from the National Science Foundation, the National Councils of Teachers of English and Mathematics, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

We'll talk today with Dr. Ted Goldfarb, associate vice provost for curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Dr. Goldfarb has been intimately involved with a curriculum reform initiative on his own campus and is informed of what's happening around the country.

The New York Times story on the latest curriculum study, Dr. Goldfarb, said "...Survey Finds College Curriculums in... 'Disarray.'" That reflected the association's study, of course. Would you use the word "disarray" to describe college curriculums in general?

INTERVIEW DR. GOLDFARB:

-- Reaction to some study quotes: "Almost anything goes."

"...we are more confident about the length of a college education than its content and purpose."

"...marketplace philosophy...students are shoppers and professors are merchants of learnings."

"Fads and fashions...enter where wisdom and experience should prevail."

-- Whose "fault" is it, anyway?

-- Report urges adoption of curriculum providing nine "experiences", including critical analysis,

abstract logical thinking, inquiry, literacy,
historical consciousness, science, values, art.

- Technology and society
- Foreign language; international understanding
- Who should devise reforms? Students, faculty, parents,
alumni, donors, greater community, government
- What can average citizen do to effect change?

14:00

11:02:15

AFO: We're going to take a short break. When we return, we'll be talking about what Stony Brook is doing to improve its curriculum.

BRIDGE MUSIC UP AND UNDER

AFO: Hi. I'm Al Oickle, and I'm at the State University of New York at Stony Brook with Dr. Ted Goldfarb. We've talking about what some people call curriculum reform. That word "reform" bothers me a little because I associate it with correction of wrongdoing. Is there a better term to use, Dr. Goldfarb?

INTERVIEW DR. GOLDFARB:

- Stony Brook's ongoing curriculum changes
- Review latest effort over past three years
- Principal changes being undertaken:
 - History and culture
 - Science and technology
 - Frequent writing assignments
 - Development and application of quantitative skills
 - Emphasize roles of women and minorities in subject areas
 - Computer work stations
 - General education honors program
 - "Corridors" living/learning program
 - "Capstone" courses for seniors

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