

Senate Resolution 2008-09 XX

WHEREAS the Formal and Informal Reasoning Area of Inquiry (FIR) was developed by the Task Force on Curriculum and Academic Life based on a substantial body of research and university-wide discussion; and

WHEREAS the explicit study of the formal and informal components of human reasoning is a core component of Liberal Arts education that can be traced back to the teachings of Plato and Aristotle in the original Academy; and

WHEREAS the pedagogical basis for most courses in this area lends itself to larger class sizes far better than more writing-focused courses found in other Areas of Inquiry thus making it among the most efficient Areas in terms of class capacity; and

WHEREAS the FIR Area of Inquiry currently has courses contributed from 8 departments, which positions it squarely in the middle of the range for number of departments in any Area; and

WHEREAS the departments in the Luter School of Business intend to introduce a number of courses into the FIR Area of Inquiry, thus leading FIR to rank among the highest number of contributing departments of any area,

WHEREAS thus elimination of FIR would hinder rather than facilitate the university's desire to integrate Luter School into a holistic liberal arts community

WHEREAS one of the goals of the university is to have a fully integrated liberal arts experience for students and faculty;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the faculty senate of Christopher Newport University strongly opposes the elimination of the Formal and Informal Reasoning Area of Inquiry.