Main Issues Addressed

1. Revision of Area III Requirements
   In response to a request by Miriam Langsam, the committee's primary focus this year was revising the SLA Area III requirements.

   Over time there has been an increase in student petitions to have 300 and 400 level courses outside of liberal arts and science satisfy the SLA Area III requirements. There are two related concerns. First, allowing these outside courses breaks the spirit of the requirement (to broaden the student's education within arts and sciences). Second, an increasing number of judgments have to be made about which outside course should count. This is time-consuming because it means acquiring detailed knowledge about the courses and then considering whether it is reasonable to allow them to satisfy Area III.

   Our committee's discussion of the issue can be summarized by the following points, that served to guide the drafting of our proposal.

   (1) Many students go outside of arts and science to complement the SLA major with a minor or major in a professional school. This is a reasonable and practical objective, especially for IUPUI students, and should be encouraged. It is the primary justification for going outside of arts and sciences to satisfy Area III.

   (2) Judging which individual outside courses should count on a course-by-course basis is too costly.

   (3) Any changes in Area III requirements should encourage students to minor and major in a SLA degree.

   These points led to a proposal (see attachment) that was put forth for a vote and approved at the April 2003 SLA Faculty Assembly Meeting.

2. The addition of W231 to the list of second writing courses
   The committee considered a proposal from Mary Sauer of the Writing Coordinating Committee to add W231, Professional Writing Practices, to the list of second writing courses. This would give students a choice between W231 or W132 (Elementary Composition II). Over time W231 has evolved into a research writing course (rather than a business writing course per se) that now shared fundamental characteristics with W132.
The committee agreed with the different arguments offered by the Writing Committee as to why a change in the status of W231 makes sense.

The committee supported the proposal, which as passed by the Faculty Assembly.

3. A dual degree program in German and Engineering
The committee considered a proposal from Gabrielle Bersier, the chair of World Languages and Cultures, for a dual degree: Bachelor of Arts in German and Bachelor of Science in Engineering. The committee felt the proposal shared a similar motivation as our Area proposal--finding ways to make an undergraduate Liberal Arts degree more marketable for our students by pairing it with more specific skills. The committee was also impressed the dual degree only reduces total number of SLA general education requirements by 6 credit hours.

The committee supported the proposal, which as passed by the Faculty Assembly.

4. Administrative Withdrawal Policy
The question of whether to extend the Administrative Withdrawal policy came up. Miriam Langsam, Dean of Students, explained that the policy is being used on a trial basis in some courses, and the question is whether it should be adopted in other courses as well. It was agreed that the various departments would need to be consulted. The committee approved the policy for freshmen and first year students. Dean Langsam agreed to present the idea to the Faculty Assembly.