



# The Evergreen State College

December 15, 1986

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TO: The Strategic Planning Council  
FROM: Gail Martin, *Gail Martin* Vice President for Student Affairs  
RE: Progress Report on the Student Governance DTF

I met last week with Barbara Gibson and Steven Aldrich, co-chairs of the Student Governance DTF. They gave a progress report and requested an extension.

### Progress Report:

- 1) They have made significant progress on clarifying the legal constraints on student authority in governance and decision-making;
- 2) They have almost completed their review of the history of governance at Evergreen;
- 3) They have reviewed student governance at other colleges;
- 4) They have received several governance proposals authored by students.

Plan of Action: The DTF wants to articulate a student governance proposal drawing upon the student proposals and upon their best developmental thinking. They plan to hold campus-wide consultations on this first draft proposal toward the end of January. I am satisfied they are making progress and, by this memorandum, extend their deadline to February 27, 1987.

GM:AP

cc: Joe Olander  
Student Governance DTF  
Student Communications Center

## Proposal for Seminar Skill Building in Core Programs

I have noted five essential seminar skills that most students do not have. I feel all new students should first seminar on the following essential skills:

*F/I from  
Bill Lott  
f-student  
government*

The first is one of consulting all who will be affected by a decision. In seminar this is asking other students what they think about the book or lecture and then attentively listening.

The second is one of recognizing that each person has a unique world view that may appear of little value for long periods of time until a unique problem occurs for which that unique world view may quickly and wisely solve the problem where no one else can. In seminar this is attentive listening to others in anticipation that sooner or later attentive listening will pay off exceptionally well by helping them to understand the book or lecture. The above concepts are dealt with in detail in the following books:

**"Who Speaks for Wolf"**

Tribe of Two Press 1983 Spencer, P.

**"Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In"**

Penguin Books Press 1981 Fisher, R.

**"The Evolution of Cooperation"**

Basic Books Press 1984 Axelrod, R.

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The third is one of *not* allowing any one to interrupt my life when I have a contribution to make to my community. In seminar a student that has not read the book will attempt to impede the progress of the discussions so as to prevent the discovery of their not having read the book. The following book is very useful in dealing with such behavior:

**"Coping With Difficult People"**

Ballantine Books Press 1981 Bramson, R.

The fourth is the major change in our perception of each other. In seminar men and women seek each other out as partners. The following book helps men and women work well together.

**"Intimate Strangers: Men and Women Together"**

Harper and Row 1983 Rubin, L.

The fifth is the lies we tell ourself when we can't physically cope. In seminar when the pain or threat of information is too great we instinctively turn our attention away and fill in the blind spot with a vital lie of what we would liked to have seen. The following book will help students to deal with their self-deception.

**"Vital Lies, Simple Truths: The Psychology of Self-Deception"**

Simon and Schuster 1985 Goleman, D.

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