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Date: 2/18/2005 9:58:32 AM
Subject: Call for nominations: Freshman Reader

To all faculty and staff,

As a result of faculty enthusiasm expressed during the Faculty Development Workshop in January, the New Student Experience Leadership Team unanimously voted to pilot a freshman reader program for the incoming freshman class. The ideal timeline for the program is that students receive the book in June when they come to register, read the book over the summer, participate in small group discussions with faculty upon arrival to campus and then attend a lecture (maybe even Convocation) by the author. A committee of faculty, staff and students has been formed to select this year's book.

We are calling for book title nominations from all faculty and staff by February 25, 2005. We will be meeting on Tuesday March 1 to make a short list of books for committee members to read so that a final selection can be made later in the spring. If you wish to nominate a book, please read the criteria below carefully to be sure your nomination is appropriate.

1. Books should cost no more than about \$10 (typically only paperbacks) and be less than 300 pages long, preferably about 200 pages.
2. The author should be living and potentially available to come to campus. If you've heard the author speak and can vouch for a good presentation, let us know.
3. Please restrict yourself to books that you have read yourself and can describe. We would like at least 3-4 sentences from you regarding why you feel a book is appropriate since the committee cannot do justice to researching every title submitted.
4. Please keep in mind the goals of a freshman reader program. We want to introduce students to the mind shift that must occur from high school to college and the academic life. We want a book with universal, important themes that lend themselves to lively discussion. At the same time, we want the book to be as entertaining and fun as possible. It must be accessible and interesting to an 18 year old but at the same time intellectual and stimulating. This will be an important first impression for our incoming freshman, so success is important.

We apologize for the short notice on this. If this pilot is successful, the book selection process for later years will probably begin in October. For now, please give us any assistance you can toward making the 2005 Freshman Reader program a huge success.

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