

University Core Development Committee
November 14, 2000
Gasson 105, 1:30 p.m.

Members in attendance included Chair Richard Cobb-Stevens, Patrick Byrne, Clare Dunsford, Kathleen Mahoney, Ourida Mostefai, and Dennis Sardella.

The agenda for the meeting was to review the Literature core as taught in the foreign language departments. Guests were Laurie Shepard, Chair of Romance Languages, Michael Resler, Chair of Germanic Studies, David Gill, S. J., Chair of Classics, and Cynthia Simmons, Professor in Slavic Languages. Richard asked our guests to discuss how the literature core was working out in their departments, including issues of enrollment, and how the committee could enhance their participation in the core.

Certain themes emerged in the course of a lively conversation:

- the problem of small departments needing core courses to function also as an elective in their major
- the need for small departments to “use” core courses to raise enrollment in the department
- the level of core literature courses: while Romance Languages does not assume students in their core classes are freshmen, English and Slavic do
- the best way to list literature core courses for better access
- the possibility of having a comparative literature program at B.C.

In the end the committee agreed to suggest to the English Department that all literature core courses, from all departments, be listed with the prefix “LC”. The language department representatives were encouraged to explore among themselves the notion of a comp. lit. department and other ways to promote academic collaboration.

Submitted by Clare Dunsford