

University Core Development Committee

Gasson 105, 1:30 p.m.

February 13, 2001

Minutes

In attendance were Chair Richard Cobb-Stevens, Patrick Byrne, Clare Dunsford, Maggie Galvin, John Heineman, Kathleen Mahoney, and Dennis Sardella.

- I. Richard Cobb-Stevens distributed a report on the core that he had recently given to the Board of Trustees.
- II. In preparation for our next meeting, with representatives of the writing core, the committee discussed some of the issues and concerns we would like to raise with Professor Lad Tobin. Questions and comments that surfaced include the following:
 - What are the goals of the writing program? While the “means” may appropriately be left up to the program, it was felt that the goals might come under the purview of the core committee.
 - Is one of the goals to write an expository essay or a research paper? If so, two or three members voiced their desire to see an attention to matters of grammar, clarity, and style in the teaching of the writing course. They wondered if an emphasis on a first-person expressive style did not take precedence over an emphasis on clarity. Accordingly, it was suggested that research essays be assigned earlier in the semester and autobiographical narratives later on.
 - We discussed how to encourage faculty investment in requiring good writing in other core courses.
 - It was suggested that student publications be revived that celebrated academic writing as well as creative writing.
- III. John Heineman handed out data he had compiled on the composition of the faculty teaching in the core.

Submitted by Clare Dunsford