

University Core Development Committee

November 12, 2002

Gasson 105, 1:30 p.m.

Minutes

In attendance were Chair Richard Cobb-Stevens, Patrick Byrne, Timothy Duket, Clare Dunsford, Maggie Kearney, Fr. Frank Murphy, Dennis Sardella and Sandra Waddock.

Guests were representatives of the language departments to discuss the literature core: Jeff Flagg (RL), Rachel Freudenburg (GE), David Gill, S.J. (CL), and Cynthia Simmons (SL). At our next meeting we will meet with the English Department to discuss their literature core courses.

I. Richard Cobb-Stevens asked the departments if they had any concerns or comments about the literature core. It was reported that student audits are not accurately recording the language departments' core courses; it seems the software only recognizes the EN prefix. This led to a discussion of using a single prefix for all literature core courses regardless of department, e.g., LC or LT. In the past IT had not been willing to accommodate this request, but perhaps it is time to ask again. Another suggestion to ensure that students know of the non-English literature core courses was to have the core literature listing on the Web link to the language departments.

Later in the meeting Richard noted that Student Services and the UCDC each maintain lists of core courses, but with frequent changes in course numbers and titles, the lists do not always match. Perhaps we should let Student Services maintain the definitive list in the interest of accuracy, since students tend to consult that list when registering for classes.

II. The Committee had some comments on the course syllabi that had been distributed:

- The Slavic Languages department was praised for the quality of its syllabi.
- Some syllabi did not meet some of the core criteria, including historical range and a range of genres.
- A few syllabi lacked a final exam, and these were pointed out.

III. Richard will seek an opportunity to speak to the Board of Chairs and ask departments to educate their new faculty in how to design a core course.

The Committee unanimously approved Jeff Flagg's RL 302, Racism: French and American Perspectives, for cultural diversity credit.

Submitted by Clare Dunsford