

University Core Development Committee
December 7, 2004
Higgins 552-Biology Conference Room, 1.00 p.m.

Minutes

In attendance were: Richard Cobb-Stevens, Alec Peck (Education), Catherine Read (Nursing), Paul Gray (Sociology), Patrick Byrne (Philosophy), Tim Duket (A&S Honors), Catherine Schneider (Economics), Clare O'Connor (Biology), Dennis Sardella (Chemistry), Ourida Mostefai (A&S Associate Dean), John Gallagher (Management).

This committee invited representatives of all of the literature department to discuss issues and programs that they might have in common. The following colleagues accepted our invitation:

Cynthia Simmons (Slavic Languages)
Charles Ahearn (Classical Studies)
Mary Crane (English)
Franco Mormando (Romance Languages)
Michael Resler (Germanic Studies)

Several issues of mutual interest surfaced:

- 1) It was agreed that core courses in literature must deal with different literary genres and different historical periods. Such courses must also try to give as sense of various methods of interpretation currently in use in literary analysis.
- 2) The committee members were pleased to hear that a problem concerning enrollment numbers in the smaller literature departments has been successfully resolved. There had been a tendency among students and their faculty advisors to think only of the English Department when choosing core courses in literature. A couple of years ago we recommended that all literature course be cross-listed with the English Department. This has resulted in a more even distribution of students among the various departments.
- 3) Several members of the committee emphasized once again that the importance of multiple writing assignments in all core courses, but especially in the literature courses/