

University Core Development Committee
February 24, 2003
Gasson 105 1:30 p.m.

Minutes

In attendance were Chair Richard Cobb-Stevens, Patrick Byrne (Philosophy), Marilyn Cochrane-Smith (Education), Tim Duket A&S Honors), Clare Dunsford (A&S Associate Dean), Maggie Kearney (Nursing), Dennis Sardella (Chemistry), and Sandra Waddock (Management).

Richard Cobb-Stevens suggested that it was time to review the committee's policies concerning the approval for core credit of courses taken at institutions other than Boston College.

From the outset, the committee has left to the discretion of department chairs decisions regarding substitution of courses taken elsewhere (including summer school courses) for approved core courses in their own departments. In general, the chairs (or directors of undergraduate studies) have adopted strict criteria for making such exceptions. Many departments simply refuse to allow any such exceptions. Others allow substitutions only when the syllabi in question closely resemble the approved courses.

A special problem arises with regard to courses that might fulfill the cultural diversity requirement. Given that these courses are accepted from any and all departments at Boston College, it seemed best to assign to one person the task of reviewing the syllabi of courses taken by BC students at foreign universities or other American universities. Richard Cobb-Stevens has been making these decisions.

Richard submitted a list of courses approved during the past few years, and noted that the number of applications for approval is constantly increasing. He also noted that he rejects far more proposed courses than he accepts.

The committee decided to maintain this arrangement. A suggestion that these decisions might be made by the Office of International Programs was not accepted.

Submitted by Richard Cobb-Stevens