

University Core Development Committee
Thursday, April 14, 2005
Gasson 105, 9.00 a.m.

Minutes

Present were: Chair, Richard Cobb-Stevens, Ourida Mostefai (Associate Dean, A&S), Patrick Byrne (Philosophy), Catherine Read (Nursing), Timothy Duket (A&S Honors Program), Clare O'Connor (Biology), Dennis Sardella (Chemistry), Alec Peck (Education), Catherine Schneider (Economics).

This last meeting of the academic year was devoted to an extensive discussion with a group of 26 randomly selected Juniors, most of whom had complete all of their core requirements.

Several students referred explicitly and quite favorably to the Jesuit tradition, after one student remarked that it is only that tradition could put together a such core program." Others observed that the core introduced them to fields that they would never have selected on their own.

One student complained that it is possible to come to BC and never take a course on Catholicism. Another pointed out that this is not quite accurate because all of the Theology Departments courses, including The Religious Quest, have at least some treatment of Catholicism.

The Cornerstone Program received a great deal of praise.

One student remarked that she regretted that she had "APd" out of half of the core.

Another mentioned that too much of First-Year orientation is spent on "social" rather than academic themes.

The Perspectives and Pulse programs received high praise. There were some complaints about large classes in the physical science core courses,

In general, the tone the discussion was quite positive – a pleasant ending to the semester.

Submitted by Richard Cobb-Stevens