

Assessment Report for the Dept. of Classics 2005-6

Undergraduate program:

We are satisfied that our majors on graduating have acquired excellent skills in critical thinking and writing and have a broad and sophisticated knowledge of the classical world.

Evaluative procedures:

1. Writing evaluation, CL 591: A committee of two (Prof. Aylward and Prof. Newlands) read through a randomly selected set of five papers from the senior seminar, Classics 591, taught by Prof. Beneker in the spring semester 2006. The topic for the seminar was "Epic Literature, Old and New" and the assigned readings were the *Odyssey*, *Aeneid*, Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*, and Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*. For this paper the students had read the *Odyssey* and *Aeneid* and were asked to write about the heroic journey in terms of the hero's character and the situations and people he met along the way. They had to address the journeys of both Odysseus and Aeneas to some extent but were free to focus their papers on one hero and use the other as a comparandum.

The committee agreed that the five randomly selected papers certainly met expectations and two exceeded them.

2. Undergraduate exit survey, Spring 2006: This was our first year of sending out the undergraduate exit survey. We distributed paper surveys at the undergraduate end of year lunch; we received 10 returns, 8 from Classical Humanities majors, 2 from Classics majors. We have almost 80 majors and Certificate students in our program; about 20 of these are graduating so the return represents about half of the available sample. Next year we will do an electronic survey so that we can reach the maximum number of graduating seniors.

The Undergraduate adviser, Prof. Patricia Rosenmeyer, reports that the surveys all agree on one thing: students are very happy with the major, and many of them say that Myth (CL 370) brought them into the department. BUT they all complain that there are not enough courses offered, and not enough variety in terms of the offerings. We need more staffing.

PR May 11, 2006, CEN May 18 2006

Graduate program:

We are satisfied that all our graduate students are making good progress in the four major stages of our program.

Evaluative procedures:

1. Progress reports are handed out every semester and, on return, are filed in the student's folder; all **exam scripts** are also kept in the students' files in the department office after collection and review by the graduate adviser, Prof. Montiglio.

- 2. End of year summary report:** Prof. Montiglio reported on each graduate student's progress at the last department meeting of the year, April 27. Discussion followed her report. That report is on file in the office and is pasted in here with a few additions by CEN:

Graduate Assessment 2005-6:

Our graduate students are all in good standing with the Department.
[Details on individual student standing omitted.]