

Class of 1962 Writing and Rhetoric Program

Proposal to the Class – October 20, 2007

Background

- Those in attendance at the Class' June 2007 Reunion voted to support the College's Writing Program as a Class Project subject to more definition.
- After the Reunion, Tom Cormen, head of the Writing Program, further defined his vision of how the Class could help. In brief, he envisions several courses which teach writing skills in specific fields of study like the sciences, math and others that do not currently focus on writing.
- Tom estimated that each course could be supported by an endowment of \$250,000 with a multi-course target of \$1 million.
- According to the Development Office in September, members of the Class contributed \$50,000 to establish the "Class of '62 Writing and Rhetoric Endowment Fund" (see the Statement of Understanding).
- As a result of the officially recognized and sanctioned endowment, funds of any size can now be contributed to the endowment through the dues payment process and/or through direct gifts, if so designated.

Proposal

- That the Class adopt the "Class of 1962 Writing and Rhetoric Program" with its supporting endowment as a Class Project leading up to our 50th Reunion.

Discussion of Proposal

- Writing and rhetorical skills are crucial in all disciplines.
- Writing (and rhetoric) is often a deficient skill in college graduates.

- Writing skills are particularly weak in many students in the science, math, and other analytical disciplines.
- The Class can match the success of the Faculty Fellowship which recognizes young faculty teaching skills with across the curriculum aid to student writing skills (“Great Book End Projects” for the Class).
- At the present time, the Class has an exceptional on-campus champion for the Program in Professor Tom Cormen. Thad Seymour also commented very favorably on the proposed program at our 45th Reunion Class meeting.
- The College supports our approach and recognizes the Class’ initiative.
- The Class of ’62 can make a difference to close a critical need.