Jesuit Values in the Core Curriculum

Question: What Jesuit values were learned in two foundational courses in Core – ENG 101 and RST 101? How and when were they learned? What impact did teaching methodology (course design) have on the process, if any?

Institutional Context of the Core Curriculum

4 Foundational courses

RST 101: (among 5 goals approved by the Department) describe the basic insights of the College's Catholic, Jesuit tradition.

ENG 101: (among 6 goals approved by the Department): a) to learn to write for different purposes (e.g., self-expression, persuasion, & reportage) using appropriate modes & strategies (e.g., narration, description, analysis, and evaluation) & b) to learn to adapt writing to the needs and interests of different audiences and situations.

14 Area Studies courses (outside of major field)

2 of these courses must be International & Cultural Diversity courses.

Values in General Education: critical thinking, reflection; life-long learning & service

Possible Jesuit Values

1) “Characteristics of Jesuit Education” (1986): academic excellence; formation of the whole person; individual care; global reach; leadership.

2) “Men for Others” (Pedro Arrupe, 1973): value oriented for service of church & community, i.e., women & men for and with others; Christocentric; faith that does justice.

3) Other relevant values: sacramental world view (“Finding God in all things”); “For the greater glory of God (the more universal good); Eloquentia Perfecta; dialog with faith(s) and culture(s).

Student Profile: 4984 students; 3490 undergraduates; 338 undergraduate minorities; 55% female; 45% male (undergraduates).

Gathering Data

1) Analysis of course syllabi
2) Interview of faculty involved
3) Student pretest
4) Relevant essays

Conclusions
Questions to ask faculty in an interview:

1. Do you consciously teach about Jesuit values? If so, what values?

2. What learning activities do you use to teach about these values, e.g., lectures, readings, other activities?

Pre-test questions for students (open-ended questions & rating questions)

1. What makes Jesuit education different (distinctive) from public education? From other types of religious education?

2. From what you have heard or experienced how do Jesuits treat students in their educational institutions?

3. What is your level of familiarity with the following values considered important in Jesuit education? [Use a scale of: Not at all; Somewhat familiar; or Very familiar.]
   
   a. Pursuit of justice;
   
   b. Promotion of an individual’s faith;
   
   c. Academic excellence;
   
   d. Service for others;
   
   e. Cultivation of global concerns;
   
   f. Interest in training the whole person;
   
   g. Individual care for students;
   
   h. Learning through interaction with other religions & cultures.