

A Brief History of Grinnell's Tutorial

Tutorial Orientation Lunch

March 11, 2011

- 1964 President Howard Bowen mentions tutorial style of learning.
- 1966 Prof. Alan Jones on sabbatical in England studies tutorials at Oxford and Cambridge.
- 1968 Curriculum reform at Grinnell adds new graduation requirements, including 36 credits in humanities, social studies, science, foreign language, and fine arts.
- Fall 1969 Student activism and protest of Vietnam War.
- February 1970 Beryl Clotfelter: "A Proposal that all Graduation Requirements be Abolished."
- Spring 1970 Freshman Year Committee (Barry Zigas and three other students) propose non-graded tutorial as a college requirement.
- October 1970 Alan Jones proposes tutorial to faculty; proposal amended to Clotfelter document.
- November 1970 New requirements for graduation (including the tutorial) approved by the faculty.
Original tutorial had three main goals:
- i) To achieve closer faculty/student relations in an informal non-classroom setting without grades;
 - ii) To improve the advising system by having the tutorial professor act as the student's adviser until the student declared a major field, and the faculty member would receive teaching credit for tutorial responsibilities;
 - iii) To provide a context for first-year student writing, usually short writing exercises and essays.
- Spring 1971 Pilot of four tutorials conducted.
- Fall 1971 35 tutorials offered at Grinnell.
- April 1971 Freshman Year Committee recommends that each tutorial be assigned a reference librarian and two upper-division students as class assistants.
- 2003 Clotfelter reflects: "The tutorial endures."
- Fall 2011 40th anniversary of tutorial

Alumni Outlook Survey: tutorial consistently listed as one of the "most rewarding academic experiences at Grinnell."