Commission Begins Review Of College Core

Undertaking the first full-scale review in 50 years of Columbia College’s core curriculum, a new commission will begin the first phase of its work next week.

The Commission on the Core Curriculum, headed by Wm. Theodore deBary, the John Mitchell Mason Professor of the University, will hold six weekly meetings at the Heyman Center for the Humanities, which has recently sponsored discussions on the state of the humanities, to determine the state of general education in undergraduate institutions today, identify any problems in Columbia’s core and hear from several groups concerned with the issue.

Members of the commission are: Robert Belknap, professor of Slavic languages; Myron L. Cohen, professor of anthropology; Arnold Colley, professor of economics; James A. Coulter, professor of classics; Ainslie T. Embree, professor of history and chairman of the staff of Contemporary Civilization; Gerald Feinberg, professor of physics; Barbara J. Fields, professor of history; Flynn; Carol Gluck, professor of East Asian languages and cultures; Charles V. Hamilton, Wallace Sayre Professor of Political Science; Carl Hovde, professor of English and comparative literature; Richard F. Kuhns Jr., professor of philosophy; Frank J. Macchiara, professor of business; Steven Marcus, George Delacorte Professor of English and Comparative Literature; Leeman L. Perkins, professor of music; Wayne L. Proudfoot, professor of religion; David Rosand, professor of art history and archaeology; Malvin A. Ruderman, Centennial Professor of Physics, and Jacob W. Smit, Queen Wilhelmina Professor of History.

The formation of a commission was announced at the February College

Swordsmen Win National Crown

The Columbia men’s varsity fencing team captured its second straight National Collegiate Athletic Association championships last weekend at Princeton. Lion fencers won top honors in all three weapons, the first time any team has accomplished the feat since 1961.

waiting to clinch the national title," he said.

Bob Cottingham won the saber title with an 18-3 record, with Chris Reoth second with 18-2. Marc Kent captured the foil crown with an 18-3 mark, while Bill Mindel was third at
CC Core... (Continued from page 1)

faculty meeting, when the faculty voted to replace the college's remoteness requirement, obliging students to take six points outside their primary area of study, with a requirement that all undergraduates take six points dealing with a major world culture not represented in Contemporary Civilization or Humanities A. That requirement will begin to come into effect next year, the College Committee on Instruction will determine which courses now taught in the college will meet the requirement.

The meetings of the commission scheduled between Apr. 6 and May 3 will hear various opinions on the current state of the core, representatives of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, Student Council and the staffs of Humanities A and Contemporary Civilization will speak. Other meetings will consider alumni views of their experience with the core; the second-year course in Contemporary Civilization required before 1969, and University administrators' perceptions of problems with the core.

In establishing the commission dean Robert E. Pollack asked that it discuss the validity of the notion of a core curriculum, what such a core should include and how texts should be chosen, the role of science in the core, the place of junior and senior faculty in teaching core courses and the role of the core in shaping faculty hiring practices.

"This is a time of lively ferment for higher education, and I think we are obliged to respond with a serious evaluation of Columbia College's priorities and academic values," said Pollack.

"Theoretical and methodological problems will have to come into the discussion," said deBary. "We are working from an established base. We are not assuming that everything will remain the same, but we are working from something we think works fairly well, not starting from scratch."

A committee headed by George W. Flynn, professor of chemistry, will examine the role of science in general education. After the scheduled meetings to define the state of the core, the commission will identify areas that merit additional study, such as the place of humanities, social sciences and natural sciences in general education, in the summer and early fall.

"We will, I'm sure, want to consider whether included under the core might be problems not necessarily concerned with a particular culture, such as ecology or environmental problems," said deBary. "We want to leave ourselves free to address problems and issues regardless of disciplinary boundaries."