Blackmer addressed the separation issue by saying that he personally disliked seeing the Program leave the Department, but he added that "I'm not terribly hopeful" as to the eventual outcome. "Background, differences of understanding, and fundamental attitudes among faculty are not likely to change."

The conflicting attitudes of faculty in the Literature Section of the Department and those of other areas, as well as the differing opinions along junior-senior faculty lines, have been the cause of much of the controversy surrounding the way writing courses are now being taught and the current value of the Program.

Such attitudes range from demands for more rigor and higher standards regarding correction of student work, and a minimum page requirement for students in Program courses, to total satisfaction with all teaching methods used.

While Hanham believes that status differences between Program and non-Program faculty (tenure and title, for example) have "exacerbated" the problem, he still feels that the current conflict of opinion is "good" and a "constant reminder that there's not just one way to do things."

In a development related to the Program, Blackmer noted that although a resubmitted proposal to include a somewhat revamped "Writing and Experience" course on the Humanities Distribution list had been rejected, the Requirement Committee had approved a new course, "The Short..."