

To the Leaders and Trustees of the College Board
April 16, 2008

We are writing to you as a group of ten individuals who over the past thirty-five years have played critical leadership roles in the College Board's Advanced Placement Latin program. Each of us has served either as the Chairperson of the Development Committee or as the Chief Reader/Faculty Consultant, and two of us have served in both capacities. Together, we have dedicated over 140 years of our careers to the service of this important program of the College Board.

We realize that you are receiving letters voicing many legitimate concerns about the Board's recent decision to drop the AP Latin Literature examination. We do not want to reiterate what has been written, but we do wish to note our solidarity with the writers. We, who have worked quietly and faithfully within the structure of the College Board for many years, are writing to express our extreme disappointment in this decision and especially the manner in which it was implemented.

The AP Latin examinations have been playing an important role in secondary schools and colleges for many years, and their popularity has been growing. After building a community of trust with teachers and administrators in schools across the nation, we are stunned that the Board would take the precipitous and wrong step of canceling this examination and would do so without consultation with the Latin teachers who support the College Board and the AP Latin exams.

We urge you to rescind as soon as possible the decision to eliminate the AP Latin Literature examination and to begin a dialogue with those who have taught AP Latin and know the program's value. It is our hope that all of us can then work together without rancor to improve this course which for many years has served distinctly our nation's students and teachers.

We appreciate the vital role you play, and we acknowledge the sometimes difficult decisions you as a group must make. We look forward to working together with you positively, as we all continue to serve the teachers and students who are dedicated to the College Board Programs.

John F. Finamore Sheila K. Dickison Barbara Weiden Boyd Margaret A. Brucia
Madeleine M. Henry Susan L. Bonvallet Shelley P. Haley

Development Committee Chairpersons, AP Latin -- 1984-2007

Sheila K. Dickison Judith de Luce Peter N. Howard
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Chief Readers/Faculty Consultants, AP Latin -- 1988-2007