

CoCoA-5 - Support #1287

Better err msg for easy typo in ring definition

23 May 2019 12:16 - John Abbott

Status:	Closed	Start date:	23 May 2019
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	John Abbott	% Done:	100%
Category:	enhancing/improving	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:	CoCoA-5.4.0	Spent time:	1.00 hour
Description			
Consider this excerpt:			
<pre>>>> use P := QQ[x]; --> ERROR: I was expecting a semicolon but I've found " :=" --> use P := QQ[x]; --> ^^</pre>			
The message should really say "expecting semicolon or ::=". Or we could even allow := in this context, but that might be confusing?			

History

#1 - 23 May 2019 15:13 - John Abbott

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

The relevant source code is in Parser.C around line 360 in the function parseUseStatement.

I think it may be reasonable to accept a normal assignment operator := but issue a warning.

No doubt the error message was produced by the call to this->expectingSemicolon; somehow we should supply a better message to be printed (e.g. via an optional string arg?)

#2 - 01 Oct 2019 14:44 - John Abbott

- Target version changed from CoCoA-5.3.0 to CoCoA-5.4.0

#3 - 19 Mar 2021 15:38 - John Abbott

- Assignee set to John Abbott

- % Done changed from 10 to 30

I have just modified the parser to print out a warning:

```
/**/ use P := QQ[x];
--> WARNING: Interpreting := as ::=
--> use P := QQ[x];
-->      ^^
/**/ P;
RingWithID(3, "QQ[x]")
```

Is this reasonable behaviour? Should I check in?

#4 - 02 Apr 2021 10:38 - John Abbott

- Status changed from *In Progress* to *Feedback*

- % Done changed from 30 to 90

Anna approved this change during discussions. The warning has been reworded:

```
/**/ use P := QQ[x];  
--> WARNING: Write ::= instead of := to avoid this warning  
--> use P ::= QQ[x];  
-->      ^^
```

There was also a suggestion simply to allow := without any warning. JAA thinks this could be confusing; Anna thought it would be easier for new users.

We decided to accept the current impl, and possibly open a new issue in future if the warning proves to be irritating.

#5 - 16 Sep 2021 12:38 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- Status changed from *Feedback* to *Closed*

- % Done changed from 90 to 100