

Department of English and Philosophy
Faculty Meeting Minutes
Oct 6, 2009

Present: J. Adkison, B. Attebery, J. Attebery, M. Dodd, T. Engebretsen, S. Goslee, H. Hellwig, A. Johnson, M. Johnson, T. Klein, M. Norton, A. Petit, R. Schmidt, J. Skidmore, S. Swetnam, R. Wahl, C. Whitaker, J. Winston, B. Wolter, L. Worsham

1. Announcements

No announcements.

2. Reports from Committees

A. Graduate

J. Winston noted that the committee is reviewing the M.A. program. Currently members are gathering information about M.A. programs at peer institutions.

B. Undergraduate

S. Goslee announced that the Department will host an information session for our majors and prospective majors on Oct. 21 at the reading room at 12:30.

T Klein reported on the advising survey. To upgrade the quality of student advising, the Committee has set several goals: 1) faculty members should know who their advisees are, 2) an advising workshop will be held on Oct. 13 at 2:30, 3) an advising week will be held beginning on Nov. 2, 4) faculty should get in touch with their advisees twice a semester, at the beginning, and during the week before registration begins.

C. Composition

H. Helwig noted that committee is almost finished syllabus review and may be contacting a few faculty to stipulate additions.

The Committee Is organizing a panel discussion about assessing the writing courses in light of various disciplinary needs across campus.

D. Philosophy

R. Wahl announced that the Philosophy faculty will meet this Friday at 2 .

E. Publicity

J. Adkison asked for information for the faculty section of the newsletter, which will ideally be published before Thanksgiving.

C. Whitaker is working on publicity for the department.

F. Research and Professional Development

J. Skidmore announced an upcoming works in progress will feature Brian Attebery. Library slips have been distributed, and he asked faculty to return them ASAP, reminding them that the library budget is very limited.

R. Wahl asked whether a letter had been written to the University Research Committee regarding the move to require all proposals to discuss the potential for external funding. This

could negatively impact the availability of internal grants for arts and humanities disciplines.

J. Skidmore invited input for what should go into such a letter.

G. Faculty Senate

B. Wolter referred to the memo that Faculty Senate Chair A. Frantz circulated regarding the State Board policy granting university presidents extraordinary powers in case of financial exigency. A joint response from the four state universities is being considered. The Senate is concerned especially about matters of tenure, salary, and program reduction. A representative of faculty may be consulting with the State Attorney General.

H. Budget Council

C. Whitaker announced that pros and cons of employing a budget auditor at ISU are being discussed.

3. Current Peer Institutions

M. Johnson reviewed the current peer institution lists:

For English and Philosophy:

Philosophy:

Current: Utah State, Montana State

Aspirational: Western Washington, Washington State, Colorado State

English: Utah State, New Mexico State, Boise State, Portland State

Aspirational: University of Utah, University of North Dakota, Washington

State

For ISU as a whole:

Current: University of South Dakota, New Mexico State, Utah State,
North Dakota State, University of Nevada Reno,
University of Wyoming, University of North Dakota,
University of Oregon, University of Montana, Wichita State, San
Diego State, University of Northern Arizona, Kent State, Northern Illinois
State, Montana State

Aspirational: Oregon State

3. Workload Policy Discussion

M. Johnson provided background on the workload policy discussion.

B. Wolter asked for quick feedback on the revisions of tenure and promotion policy currently being developed in response from a request from administration. In response to a question from R. Wahl, he replied that the Senate had not yet heard about revisions to the workload policy.

M. Johnson noted that the department is trying to get a policy in place before the end of the semester to comply with administration's requests. The draft submitted to the Department at this meeting aligns with the format suggested at a workshop she and R. Wahl attended. R. Wahl is on a College committee hoping to insure equality across departments for various

components. M. Johnson commended the department for its willingness to perform generous service, but clarified that offering adequate classes has been designated as our top priority. Consideration of faculty workloads will be part of annual evaluations, but not supplant them. Whatever policy the Department puts in place can always be negotiated and/or emended—it should be considered a flexible template.

M. Johnson asked for discussion of global concerns connected with the Department's draft document; she asked that faculty send P&P suggestions for particular, smaller changes in writing. Matters discussed included the following:

- the potential difficulty in keeping track of the numbers and fractions, vs. the banking system previously discussed
- how calculating faculty activities over a year vs. a semester will work
- the amount of uncompensated advising and other activities which will continue to be uncompensated, given this formula, resulting in faculty loads considerably over the assumed requirement
- consistency of the language with the language in the University's workload document; need for the language to sound like policy language vs. implementation language
- the problem of adjusting individual formulas as new opportunities for research arise
- the calculations employed to reach the numbers on the draft policy; how courses (especially writing courses) might be weighted, and the relevance of the latter to inter-departmental comparison of teaching workload and to class size and to heavy adjunct faculty workloads, in particular

During the course of the discussion, M. Johnson noted that the department is down 5 regular faculty positions and many adjunct positions over the past five years or so. J. Adkison suggested looking at other methods of teaching composition than the traditional classroom.

5. Revisions to the Undergraduate Curriculum

S. Goslee presented the suggested changes to the undergraduate major, as follows:

- A. Change name of general major from General Major to Literary Option.
 - B. Drop World Literature from the required so that any two 200-level British and/or American survey courses are required. World literature still counts for goal 7 and as an elective.
 - C. Add a prerequisite to English 487 so that it matches other 400-level language studies courses.
 - D. Substitute a more clearly-placed, updated statement of general prerequisites for English courses in the catalog
 - E. Change the names of 400-500-level classes to "Studies in."
- (The proposal to add a 391 and drop 301 was withdrawn.)

In reference to E, J. Winston noted that these courses are intended to function as broader surveys in the graduate program vs. the narrower emphases implied by "studies in"; she cautioned faculty to construct such courses with both purposes in mind.

T. Engebretsen suggested "goal 1 or its equivalent" as a substitution for "goal 1" in D, to accommodate transfer students.

A paper ballot on these proposed changes will be circulated.

6. Graduate Faculty Curriculum Changes

J. Winston explained changes in packet to various graduate courses and requirements, as follows:

A. Change the catalog language about E 694 to allow Ph.D. students to register for 1-6 credits to permit summer registration.

B. Add two courses in the department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies as options for the language course requirement for M.A. students. These are currently listed as Ph.D. options.

C. Remove specific lower-division prerequisites for 400-500-level courses so that graduate students may register without being blocked by Banner. Make such courses repeatable with different topics or, in the case of 406/506, genres of creative writing.

D. New language to the Ph.D. and M.A. Handbooks spelling out the requirements for English 690, Independent Studies

E. Revised document spelling out the responsibilities of the Graduate Director

F. Revised document spelling out the responsibilities of the Graduate Committee

During the course of discussion, it was noted that the Graduate Council was proposing to admit all unclassified students to the College, not to individual departments, in future. Departments may still stipulate which courses are open to unclassified students and will review their records if they apply for classified admission.

A paper ballot on these changes will be circulated.

Meeting adjourned 4:30.

Respectfully submitted, S. Swetnam