

## **Department of English & Philosophy Minutes for April 18, 2006**

### **Special Meeting for English Faculty Curricular Review and Working Group Statements**

#### **Attending:**

Jennifer Adkison	Sonja Launspach
Brian Attebery	Tracy Montgomery
Jennifer Attebery	Brian Norman
Keith Comer	Susan Swetnam
Mark Dodd	Keith Vanbezooyen
Terry Engebretsen	Curt Whitaker
Alan Johnson	Vince Willoughby
Kathleen King	Jessica Winston
Tom Klein	Brent Wolter

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m.

#### **Announcements**

The “Group 2” handout passed via email is actually the “Group 1” report.

Critical Thinking and Departmental Identity Working Group Statements will be the focus for today.

#### **New Business**

Proposal for English 448, Creative Project:

This proposal is designed to reduce the confusion between 348 (Problems in English Studies) and the graduation requirements for students taking the major track in creative writing. This course will only be available to seniors and only for this specific program requirement. The Departmental guidelines are also revised to retain the current committee review for this project. Approval was moved and seconded. Proposal language was amended to include two other committee members and senior standing, as well as changing the name to “Senior Creative Project.” The proposal will be passed out for voting via departmental ballot.

#### Discussion of Working Group Statements

Critical Thinking and Departmental Identity Working Group Statements will be the focus for today.

The “Critical Thinking” Working Group (#1) was asked to offer some observations on critical thinking within the Department. Various faculty commented on the working group’s statement, particularly with respect to issues about “texts” and “literature.” There was also discussion of the nature of critical thinking for composition courses in comparison to that expected in courses from the English major curriculum. P&P will work through a revision of the working group statement that could be used in connection with the department mission statement and other public documents.

#### Departmental Identity Working Group Statement (#3?)

This working group chose to focus on “core habits of mind” in connection to identity. Jessica noted that her statement attempted address the issue of identity with respect to aspects of faculty research, whereas the “core habits of mind” approach was more attentive to teaching. Jessica’s statement is partly drawn from the UCSB plan and meant to be inclusive of some common faculty interests. Many faculty appreciated the inclusiveness and possibilities offered by the general breakdown of Jessica’s statement. Some faculty expressed an interest in seeing professional and technical writing either included as one of the other areas or listed as a separate category (“writing in the world?”). P&P will work through a revision of the working group and Jessica’s statements (to include the working group talking points and practical strategies sections and the “Historical and Cultural Approaches to Literature and Language, Composition Instruction and English Pedagogy, Creative & Professional Writing” breakdown in Jessica’s approach) so that they could be used in connection with the department mission statement and other public documents.

P&P will work to provide a revised version of these for faculty consideration in May or at the first Department meeting in the fall.

#### **Late Announcement**

The English Club is doing a marathon reading of *Catch-22* next week. Please announce this in classes to encourage participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.