

## Department of English & Philosophy Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2006

### Attending:

#### English

Jennifer Adkison  
Brian Attebery  
Jennifer Attebery  
Keith Comer  
Mark Dodd  
Terry Engebretsen

Janne Goldbeck  
Hal Hellwig  
Alan Johnson  
Tom Klein  
Sonja Launspach  
Tracy Montgomery

Brian Norman  
Susan Swetnam  
Curt Whitaker  
Vince Willoughby  
Jessica Winston  
Brent Wolter

#### Philosophy

Melissa Norton  
Jim Skidmore  
Russell Wahl

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

### Announcements

Lynn Shutters has accepted the medievalist position in the Department.

The Dean will be sending out a copy of the revised College Tenure & Promotion Guidelines, with faculty asked (1) to vote whether or not they are acceptable, and (2) also to offer any additional comments or suggestions for revision. This form will be sent to all tenure-track faculty individually in the near future.

The proposed statement on research discussed at the last Department meeting has now been revised to include statements on teaching and service; the modified document is now being circulated to other departmental committees for review. This will be discussed at a later Department meeting.

Faculty will be receiving a draft of the Department Strategic Plan (student access, enrollment, facilities, faculty, retention, etc.) following spring break for comments and feedback.

Fall 2006 schedules will be out soon; enrollment planning is predicting another drop in total University student enrollment for that term. English spring 2006 lower-division course enrollments were down substantially from fall 2005. There was some discussion about possible recruitment and retention strategies. P&P has been discussing the need for improving the information sent to alumni and other community members, and some sort of newsletter is desired. There may soon be a Department "PR" faculty representative to be the point-of-contact for obtaining information concerning news and notes. This task would constitute the faculty member's standing committee assignment for the year. Tom asked if we might be able to partially fund a development staff member for this (University Relations may be able to match departmental funding for such a position), or have a committee assigned to the PR-role.

## Reports from Standing Committees

Graduate:	No news to report.
Research & Prof. Development:	Two upcoming “Works in Progress”: March 24th at 3:30 – Brian Norman April 7th at 3:30 – Brent Wolter
English Undergraduate:	The English Club is underway, and is now entitled “The Literary Association.”
Philosophy Undergraduate:	No news to report.
Composition:	Two upcoming brown bags/presentations: on March 21st “Using Visual Rhetoric in Composition,” and another concerning “Discipline Among Disciplines: Literature in Composition” in April.
Special Programs:	No news to report.
Faculty Senate:	Senate is now trying to forward accounts of the its sessions similar to those offered by President Gallagher’s email briefs. The Accreditation Working Group made a report to the Senate and is encouraging the faculty to note the current state of the accreditation process.

## New Business

### Composition Committee Proposal

The Composition Committee is proposing that all 102 teachers use textbooks from the approved list. Currently, tenure-track faculty are not required to use texts from that list. Discussion of various issues regarding this concern followed, to include comments about transfer students and their petitions for credit, the use of textbooks not on the list, and the language of encouraging faculty to use texts from the list, and possible waivers. Revised wording for the proposal was proposed and accepted, and the revised phrasing is:

*“All tenure-track faculty are encouraged to use the approved text list, particularly for English 102.”*

The amended language was accepted, and Terry will be sending out a ballot with this policy proposal.

### Curriculum Working Groups

Both the self-review and the external review conducted as part of the accreditation process recommended that the Department engage in a discussion of the current curriculum. The working groups were organized as the means of addressing the various questions about the curriculum that arose in our initial discussions last fall. The working groups have now provided position papers that are meant to serve as a starting point for further consideration.

Sonja asked for the questions and charges to the working groups accompany all the position papers; Tom asked for a time-frame for discussion, since there will only be two more Departmental meetings this year (as currently scheduled). Tom also requested a meeting after spring break devoted to the working group discussion, and April will also likely see the discussion of Graduate Committee statements on teaching, research, and service expectations for graduate faculty. Terry will send out a list of alternatives for scheduling extra meetings this term or a calendar for the fall for voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.