

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY  
DEPARTMENT MEETING  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, September 2, 2008; 2:30pm; LA 237**

Attending: J. Adkison, B. Attebery, J. Attebery, T. Engebretsen, S. Goslee, H. Hellwig, A. Johnson, T. Klein, D. Lattin, S. Launspach, C. Levenson, W. McCurdy, M. Norton, M. Pelletti, A. Petit, R. Schmidt, L. Shuttters, J. Skidmore, S. Swetnam, R. Wahl, C. Whitaker, J. Winston, B. Wolter.

- I. **Message from Faculty Senate Chair.** Dr. Dave Delehanty (Faculty Senate Chair, Department of Biology) spoke about the importance of faculty governance, and urged faculty members to retain and exercise their rights in governance.
- II. **New faculty.** New assistant professor Dr. Angela Petit was introduced.
- III. **Announcements.**
  - a. The Graduate Committee has announced the successful conversion from the DA program to the PhD program.
  - b. P&P has determined committee assignments for the 2008-2009 academic year.
  - c. This year's departmental picnic will be held on September 12 at FMC park.
  - d. The Composition Committee has announced that it is seeking faculty liaisons for the early college program. Interested people should contact Hal Hellwig or Terry Engebretsen.
  - e. The university is working on a new workload policy, which is designed to be more flexible and sensitive. At the same time, it was announced that P&P will be drafting a departmental workload policy. The key component of the policy will involve finding a to credit faculty for work that is currently uncompensated (such as dissertation supervision and overseeing practica). If you have suggestions, please contact a member of P&P.
  - f. The annual Idaho Yesterdays lecture will be held on September 30 at 7:30 in the Salmon River Room. The speaker will be Daniel Kemmis, a Montana politician and environmentalist.
  - g. Carlen Donovan has taken over the duties as webmaster for the departmental web site. If you'd like to see any changes, please contact her at donocarl@isu.edu.
  - h. Beginning in the spring semester, the registrar's office has stated that classroom assignments will be made using a computer program. The program is designed to ensure 'efficiency' in classroom use.
- IV. **Budget.** The chair announced that the departmental budget for FY 2009 would remain unchanged from the previous year. This means that we have \$10,776 for travel \$13,960 for communications, \$24,103 for materials and supplies, and \$6924 for capital equipment. In addition, it has been announced that CSAC will no longer be offering grants for computers and computer upgrades. This has direct impact on (among things): 1) distribution of travel

funds, and 2) the instructional budget. As travel funds are going to be limited, the chair has asked that all faculty who intend to travel during the current academic year submit their request by September 15. Regarding the instructional budget, it is possible that more tenure-track faculty will be asked to teach composition in the spring than has been the case in over the past few years.

**V. New business.**

- a. Participation in Delaware 2. Delaware Study Faculty Activity Checklist was distributed. The university is deciding whether or not to participate in this study. In order to participate, all faculty would be required to submit the checklist on an annual basis.
- b. Peer institution criteria. P&P has been asked to assemble a list of peer institutions. This is to include 'actual peers' and 'aspirational peers'. If you have suggestions about additional criteria, please contact a member of P&P.
- c. Hiring preferences for a tenure-track line were discussed. Initial, P&P had suggested the following list (in order of priority): 1) American Ethnic, 2) Creative Writing, 3) 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century British. It was suggested that option 2 be removed from consideration, after which most of the discussion focused on the merits of option 1 versus option 3. It was decided to put the decision to a ballot which requires faculty members to rank the options according to their perceptions in connection with departmental needs.
- d. Student evaluation formats were discussed. The main issue was whether or not we wanted to continue with the electronic version of the evaluations or switch back to the paper version. The primary advantage of the electronic version is in terms of its relatively low cost, while the drawback is in the possibility of diminished return rates. It was decided to put this to a ballot.

Adjourned: 4:10 pm

Submitted by Brent Wolter, Interim Assistant Chair