

Department of English & Philosophy Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2006

Attending:

English

Brian Attebery
Jennifer Attebery
Keith Comer
Mark Dodd
Terry Engebretsen
Janne Goldbeck
Hal Hellwig
Alan Johnson
Kathleen King
Tom Klein

Dawn Lattin
Tracy Montgomery
Brian Norman
Folke Person
Roger Schmidt
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.

Reports from (Standing) Committees

Policy & Personnel:	No news to report.
Graduate:	Discussing BSU's new doctorate proposal in rhetoric & composition and possible local options or programs – input from faculty welcomed.
Research & Prof. Development:	Next "Works in Progress" will be April 14th (Brent Wolter).
English Undergraduate:	Descriptions of scholarship forms for students will be in faculty mailboxes this week (creative writing and academic writing options).
Philosophy Undergraduate:	No news to report.
Composition:	No news to report.
Special Programs:	No news to report.
Faculty Senate:	Faculty are encouraged to attend the general faculty meeting tomorrow. Also, ISU budget presentations are next week. Terry noted that A&S will be looking for three new positions (in other departments) and general stipend increase.

Other/Special Committees?

Library publication revisions are in the department office (by the fax machine).

Announcements

Conference on Basic Writing this April 28th at CSI Hailey Center (\$25 w/lunch). Participation is encouraged, and there may be some funding available to support this conference.

General faculty meeting is tomorrow, April 5th at 4 p.m. in the Vocational Arts building.

The University is being asked to revisit the 8-year plan.

There will be a special Departmental faculty meeting on April 18th at 2:30 to continue the discussion of the English curriculum proposals.

New Business

Proposal to create a new, interdisciplinary folklore minor:

Jennifer Attebery discussed the background of this proposal. The Dean and the Department of Anthropology have both examined this proposal and have no objections. Motion to approve the proposal was made and seconded; faculty will have written ballots on this proposal for voting later this week.

Discussion of proposed “graduate faculty teaching, research, and service expectations”:

Both the revised proposals from the Graduate and Research and Professional Development Committees and Roger Schmidt’s alternative proposal were discussed. There was concern that the new committee versions did not adequately distinguish between what is desired with respect to “outstanding” faculty in the three areas and what the College has established for “superior” faculty in those areas with respect to tenure and promotion guidelines. Terry noted that if we move forward with these documents, we need to more closely follow the language of the College guidelines, especially with respect to satisfactory/superior, and that any goals beyond that for Departmental purposes should be defined by a separate document. Concerns were raised about the committee suggestions for faculty in creative writing, as those appeared to be set far beyond the criteria for academic/scholarly publications. Representatives from both committees were receptive to suggestions in this area.

Numerous faculty were in favor of finding ways to merge these two sets of documents – the committees’ recommendations and Roger’s proposal – and Terry noted that we need to integrate these with the Periodic Performance Review process as well. Discussion continued concerning the expectations for teaching and the expectations for service proposals. P&P will attempt to merge Roger’s proposal with the others and make specific wording changes recommended by faculty

members (correcting a typo, revising section on standards for creative writing, and removing references to criteria for “superior” performance, and so forth). Additionally, the teaching expectations statement will be looked at by the Undergraduate Committee at their next meeting (tomorrow), and the statement will be circulated to the faculty for further suggestions.

The meeting was adjourned.