

## Department of English & Philosophy Meeting Minutes for August 29, 2006

### Attending:

#### English

Jennifer Adkison  
Brian Attebery  
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Keith Comer  
Mark Dodd  
Terry Engebretsen  
Tom Flanigan  
Hal Hellwig  
Margaret Johnson  
Kathleen King  
Tom Klein  
Sonja Launspach

Jackie Maughan  
Tracy Montgomery  
Brian Norman  
Lynn Shutters  
Roger Schmidt  
Bethany Schultz  
Leif Sorensen  
Susan Swetnam  
Curt Whitaker  
Jessica Winston  
Brent Wolter

#### Philosophy

Carl Levenson  
Melissa Norton  
Jim Skidmore  
Russell Wahl  
Jonathan Westphal

The meeting began at 2:32 p.m.

### Announcements:

Annual *Idaho Yesterdays'* lecture is Sept 7th at 7 pm in the Wood River Room, with a reception in the Idaho Museum of Natural History following.

The first of the graduate student works-in-progress presentations will be on Sept 8th at 3:30 pm. Brian Norman will be the moderator, with two excerpts from Brian Lamarche's thesis on the works of Sherman Alexie. Faculty are encouraged to attend, although the discussion should be conducted largely by the graduate students.

Waveney Olembo will offering her departmental colloquium this Thursday at 2 pm.

The "American Interests" group will meet at the end of this month, with an article by Leif Sorenson, on Sept 28th at 4 pm at the Portnuef Brewery.

The Departmental Picnic is Friday, Sept 8th at FMC park, beginning around 5 pm. A separate flyer regarding it will be distributed.

Folks desiring coffee need to pay the \$7/semester cost to Lisa.

Faculty need to submit travel requests to Terry by September 15th.

Copy cost "perks" -- the folks who were frugal last year will be receiving some extra copies this year.

Committee assignments from P&P are now available and will be forwarded via email tomorrow. This year we are not initially staffing the Special Programs Committee; the future of this committee will be revisited at a faculty meeting. With respect to information for newsletters, A&S news, and so on, Jennifer Adkison will be supporting the Department in terms of public relations, publications, and notable news.

The Dean is hosting another Arts & Sciences research day later this fall, tentatively scheduled for sometime in October with a reception at the Alumni House.

The Registrar's Office is now carefully considering all change-of-grade forms, to include any "Incomplete" grades that are over a year old.

### **Arrivals/Departures:**

Dr. Lynn Shuttters joins us as a Medievalist.

Dr. Leif Sorenson joins us a full-time instructor.

Martin Baker is our new departmental work-study assistant.

Janne Goldbeck and Paul Tate have retired.

Cathy Peppers is now working in the College of Business, and Keith VanBezoyeen has moved to Salt Lake City Community College.

### **State of the Department:**

Enrollments, in terms of full or largely full classes, are doing fairly well. 110s have been temporarily restricted to 35. Overall, the University is nearly 1,000 students down from last fall. Retention continues to be an issue, and retention at ISU remains well below the national average. This is particularly an issue following fall term (w/ respect to spring term registrations).

The Department budget has now remained the same for the third year in a row (except that work-study was cut from \$6,000 to \$2,000 for the year). The travel budget is again \$10,776; we are hoping to have development money again to supplement travel funding, but that remains uncertain. Last year we had \$58,000 in travel requests, and nearly all of those were funded in some way.

Communication budget (re: phones) is insufficient to cover even basic phone line costs.

### **New Business**

Discussion of possible hiring for AY 2007-08:

The new President is requiring all vacant lines to be treated as "new" lines, so all departments and all colleges have to request -- and compete -- for those openings. By this Friday we have to identify the position we want to hire and be able to address five specific issues with respect to the need, importance, possible contributions, student benefits and impacts, credit generation, and possibilities to leverage additional funding through this proposed position.

P&P met and considered some options for this position. The five alternatives are:

1. *Assistant Professor in Literature and Pedagogy. Specific literary field is open. Successful applicants will have a demonstrated commitment to scholarship on theoretical approaches to teaching literature at the college level, history of teaching.*
2. *Assistant Professor in Business and Technical Writing. Successful applicants will have demonstrated commitment to pedagogical and/or empirical research in Business and Technical Writing. Teaching load includes Business Writing or Technical Writing or Composition and one additional course.*
3. *Creative Writer*
4. *Specialist in Modern Drama*
5. *Victorian/Modernist position*

Discussion concerning the prospective position generally focused on the need either (1) enhance the profile of the proposed PhD program in literature and pedagogy, (2) provide creative writing support for advisees and the creative writing emphasis in the major at the undergraduate level, or (3) address the need to provide more tenure track support for upper division courses in professional and technical writing.

The faculty decided that a vote on the proposed hire was necessary, and Terry will be distributing a ballot with proposed positions in these three lines as the options.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.**