

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

### Attending:

#### English

Jennifer Adkison  
Steve Adkison  
Brian Attebery  
Jennifer Attebery  
Keith Comer  
Mark Dodd  
Terry Engebretsen  
Janne Goldbeck

Hal Hellwig  
Alan Johnson  
Kathleen King  
Tom Klein  
Dawn Lattin  
Sonja Launspach  
Tracy Montgomery  
Bern Mulvey

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

#### Philosophy

Melissa Norton  
Jim Skidmore  
Russell Wahl

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

### Announcements

An offer has been extended to Stella Singer for the late Medievalist position. The Department is awaiting her decision.

Some special teaching opportunities are possible: Kay Flowers hopes to have a continuing education course in mysteries and would like someone from English to assist, and Human Resources aims to offer a workshop during Staff Appreciation Week on professional and technical writing.

Student numbers: last fall saw 3,085 in general education courses, which is about 700 lower than any term in the last 3-4 years, and over 1,000 down from last spring term, with most of this drop in English, particularly 101. There are also 154 English majors, about 40 active minors, and 40 secondary education majors; in philosophy, there are 29 majors and 11 minors. Last fall's cumulative GPA in lower divisions courses was 2.83, and a cumulative GPA of 3.07 in upper division courses. In Philosophy, those figures were 2.81, 3.34 in upper division classes, respectively. Graduate courses in English had a cumulative GPA of 3.64.

Printer update: the Department is trying to get printers in all office suites (2 of 4 so far) through requests for resources from the Supplemental Academic Computing Fund later this spring.

### Reports from (Standing) Committees

Policy & Personnel:

No news to report.

Graduate:

General MA lit exam is coming at the end of February.

Research & Prof. Development:

Thanks to those attending Jennifer Attebery's "What's New in Your Field" session.

English Undergraduate:	Faculty are encouraged to tell their students about the inaugural meeting of the English club this week. Ideas for assisting this club are encouraged (send to Tom).
Philosophy Undergraduate:	Currently working on their tenure and promotion guidelines.
Composition:	English 102 textbook review is underway, with a new “approved list” to follow in late February or early March. Guide in the use of televised media in comp classrooms to follow later this spring. Guidelines for 307 and 308 are being reviewed. The committee is hosting a panel discussion on using visual rhetoric in composition courses on March 21st at 2:30. The committee is also looking at the role of English studies in 102. The undergraduate essay contest is forthcoming, as are recommendations for teaching awards.
Faculty Senate:	Faculty Senate recommended Dr. Vailas for University President. The Senate drafted a resolution that faculty be provided a 3% raise every year, and noting that the 85% figure from the Oklahoma Survey was not a worthy goal.
Special Programs:	There will be a creative writing colloquium on March 3rd.
Other/Special Committees?	No news to report.

## Other Business

### Faculty Workload Policy

The only new addition to this policy are the following sentences:

*These units are to be viewed as a means of accounting for percentages of effort and are not based on a strict hour equivalency. Normally, faculty members work well over forty hours per week to meet their teaching, research/creative activities, and service obligations.*

Terry noted that the “9 teaching / 3 research / 3 service” guideline is designed to reflect proportional workload, though in tenure and promotion guidelines these are sometimes seen as three relatively equal areas. Brian A. noted that the history of this probably reflects a desire to show how university policies were drafted to distinguish workload at ISU from that at community colleges. A faculty

recommendation was to ask for the replacement of the word “normal” with “often” in the second sentence above.

### College Tenure and Promotion Guidelines

This draft is essentially the same draft seen last fall, with some adjustments based upon changes recommended by chairs and faculty. Some minor alternations in wording were recommended for the “research/creative activity” section. With respect to the “Annual Evaluations” section, the language of the second bullet about “tenured faculty at the AOP level” appears to imply an “up or out” policy. Terry said that the intention is not to insist that a person “move ahead,” rather that progress towards promotion may be taken at individual rates. Faculty recommended that the language for AOP be more similar to that of the tenured full professors, or that language specifically note that this is not an “up or out” policy, or that “measures required for promotion” replace the language about “corrective measures.” The Department’s draft policy on external letters (page 5) will be put to faculty vote this spring.

### Graduate Committee Statement on Research

Faculty wanted to know what specific problem or problems this proposal addressed. Brian A. said that the student in question was advised by the faculty in his/her DA program not to enroll at ISU, and a number of students have turned down scholarships and admission to ISU. Brian A. observed that he can note the numbers of students who do not enroll at ISU, but he does not have any data supporting where these students have enrolled. Various faculty remarked that we need to improve our profile through advertising and marketing of our successes, or that we should have a graduate curriculum that is refocused on teaching and pedagogy. Other faculty noted the need to better integrate teaching, research, and service. Programs from other ISU departments (e.g., Biology at ISU, or English at USU) were also noted as alternatives to current approaches. The Graduate Committee was asked to revise this proposal to include discussions of teaching and service with respect to graduate faculty teaching and expectations in service for graduate faculty.

Additionally, a question about tenure-track faculty and composition instruction was raised. The official department policy is to have TT faculty teach one section of composition each term. There are 17 full-time instructors who teach three composition and one introduction to literature courses each term, and this affects the mix of courses for tenure-track faculty. Recent new faculty hires have been told they will be teaching two compositions per year, vs. the policy of three for TT faculty, as was previous policy.

### Admission to Major

The admission to the English major requirement requires completion of general education goals 1, 2 and 3. The question is to whether or not the Department wants to require completion of 211 and two other courses in English to move from an “intended” to an “declared” English major.

The next Department meeting will address the Working Group reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.