

Department of English  
Minutes of the faculty meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Maria Bachman at 4:15 p.m.  
Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by motion of M Hixon and seconded by K Pantelides

### **New Business**

#### Lower Division/First Year Composition Realignment

M Bachman, J Barger, R Kates, and K Pantelides reviewed a proposed administrative re-organization of the department. The current Lower Division would become the First Year Composition Program (FYC) and provide support, professional development, and supervision to all faculty teaching 1009, 1010 and 1020, especially instructors and graduate teaching assistants. Sophomore literature courses would become the responsibility of the Office of the Undergraduate Program (currently Upper Division).

During the discussion that followed these points were raised:

- The proposed organizational structure would bring us into alignment with 86% of English Departments across the country
- FYC would fold GTA coordination/supervision into its responsibilities
- Concerns about the ways in which faculty would straddle the two programs, particularly graduate students and whether such a shift would prevent them from teaching at the sophomore level
- How the FYC and Undergraduate program work together on matters of supervision, student complaints, etc.

At the conclusion of the discussion, there was general agreement to move forward with the proposal, but the faculty do not want to vote on this change until it is clear how this change would affect the duties of the Upper Division office and how the two offices would work together on concerns related to their common faculty. The requested information will be brought forward at a subsequent faculty meeting so that faculty can vote on the change.

#### English Major Assessment: Exit Exams

Because of the time consumed in the previous discussion, only a cursory summary was given by E. Casal regarding English Major Exit exams. E. Casal distributed copies of information regarding the currently used major field test, including sample questions; data related to MTSU student performance on the exam; and data derived from the English Department survey distributed to seniors in the semester that they graduate. This topic will be taken up in the next meeting.

### **Director and Committee Announcements**

J. Cain, as a trustee of the Sick Bank, encouraged everyone to enroll in the Sick Bank during the open enrollment period.

Graduate: The plan to employ PhD students for departmental work during the summer is in development. Graduate faculty will meet at 3:00 on Wednesday, October 28 in KOM 326 unless notified otherwise.

Upper Division: The committee approved a special topics course, made revisions to the writing program, and E Casal reminded the faculty of the Connelly Awards.

Lower Division: The committee approved a 2020 proposal and returned 2 or 3 others for revision by the submitters.

GTA: GTAs are teaching.

Online Curriculum Comm: Thoughtful conversations are upcoming regarding the following facts: most people developing courses are instructors and many people who currently teach online are nearing retirement age.

Colloquium Comm: The next colloquium will be held Oct 27 at Sara Dunne's house and feature presentations by M Hollings and B Levine.

Search Committee: The department has been given permission to seek candidates at the assistant or associate level. The position has been advertised and 20 candidates have applied so far. November 7 is the deadline for full consideration.

The Holocaust Conference is on-going and faculty members are urged to attend.

Fall 2016 course requests are due November 2.

The English Meet & Greet was successful, and the committee members were thanked for their hard work.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35.

Next meeting: November 18, 2015

Submitted by Ellen Donovan