

Department of English
Draft of Minutes of the T/TT Faculty Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Maria Bachman at 4:15 pm

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by a motion from Ellen Donovan and seconded by Kate Pantelides.

III. Continuing Business

Upper Division/Graduate enrollments (remarks by Maria Bachman)

- Class cancellations reflect ongoing drop in enrollment. Several graduate seminars are under enrolled (but were granted one-time “exceptions” to run by the Dean’s office). Significant number of UD classes with single digit enrollments. Chair pointed out that this is not sustainable.
- Continued discussion on practical measures needed to grow the English minor quickly (in addition to rebuilding the major).
- No replacement faculty lines are on the horizon as enrollments in English (and across the university) continue to drop. Provost believes the department is “where we should be” with regard to staffing.

Graduate Assistant Summer Assignments (remarks by David Lavery)

- PhD students are on 1- month contracts and should be employed for 20 hours per week during the summer.
- Some but not all GTAs will be assigned to the UWC. Other GTAs may fulfill their hours as program and/or research assistants.

English Major Assessment: Exit Exam format (remarks by Elvira Casal)

- In-house Exit Exam versus continuation of Major Field Test?
- Current exam content and format does not accurately reflect program emphases and courses offered.
- Results are demoralizing for students.
- If we choose a departmental exit exam, IE will provide parameters. Possibility of funding and reassigned time if we go this route.
- Question posed: Is there general consensus among to pursue an “in house” exit exam for majors?
Response: YES. (A committee will be convened in August 2017).

IV. Search Committee Update (report from Jim Comas)

- Three candidates scheduled for on-campus interviews in February.
- Materials available by end of this week for faculty review.

V. Director Reports

Graduate (David Lavery)

- Ongoing discussions about revamping the program at both the MA and PhD level.
- Grad Committee hopes to bring a proposal to the faculty before April.

Upper Division (Elvira Casal)

- Proposal to eliminate the “junior standing” pre-req for 4000 courses.

- Elvira will email to faculty the upcoming deadline for UD course proposals and /or other curricular changes.

Lower Division (Ron Kates)

- Spring semester: more 2020s than 2030s scheduled
- Proposals for new ENGL 2020s are due in late February
- Need more faculty who are willing to offer online sections of ENGL 2020/2030..

GTA Coordinator (Ellen Donovan)

- 18 GTAs have been assigned classes this term
- Most teaching 1 course, 1020
- Others are working in the UWC on account of overall enrollment dip across the university.

Writing Center (Bene Cox)

- Need more tutors
- “Book Ends” Library Book Club. Featured speakers: P. Gaitely in January; J Kates in February
- Community Dialogue Speaker Series – David Lavery in February, Ellen Donovan in April
- Colloquium will not meet this semester.

VI. English Major/Minor Internships (Becky King)

- Six students have been placed in off-campus internships this semester.
- New link for internships on the department website.

VII. Online Teaching (Becky King)

- More courses are currently “in development.”
- Faculty are encouraged to offer more online courses; contact Becky if interested in developing.
- UD committee may consider rotations for online offerings.
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VIII. Reminder/Announcements

Undergraduate Program Review

- Dr. Mark West (UNC-C) will be visiting campus in March.
- Faculty need to send updated CVs to Nicole Leonce by February 5.

Next Faculty Meeting

- Ad hoc committee on 2020/2030 will report findings.

Annual Faculty Evaluations

- Due on or before April 15. Reminders will be sent through email.

Other

- Connelly Awards deadline extended

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18.