

To: Glynis Ridley, Chair, Dept. of English  
From: Beth Willey, Director of Undergraduate studies, Dept. of English  
Date: 19 August 2015  
Re: report on Academic Year 2014-2015

**State of the major:**

As of this moment, we have 239 majors and 59 minors. The administration will occasionally report in larger numbers than this because they will include intended majors.

These numbers will probably rise a bit as the semester gets underway and students enroll but it is a little lower than previously.

We graduated 79 students in the past AY 27 in Fall, 42 in Spring, and 10 in summer; and we added 112 new majors, so attrition is not working against us.

We gave out 5 scholarships for a total of just over \$36,000:

Thomas: Megan Seldon (\$8200)  
Bornhauser: Alexandra Winters (\$6500)  
Smith: Natalie Smith (\$4800)  
Smith: Alicia Humphrey (\$4800)  
Reidley: Tabitha Hernandez (\$6,000)  
Reidley: Shacoya Kidwell (\$6,000)

The Burton Award for the Highest GPA in English went to Hayley Wyman.

London: 7 students went to London with the dept. contributing \$8,000 and A&S IDEP contributing \$8,000. Recruiting is stressful, the trip is fabulous. We do not have a commitment from A&S yet about funding for next summer but we are moving ahead with recruiting and advertising. Please feel free to let Glynis know if you might be interested in the Summer 2017 program.

**Results of the Departmental SLO paper readings:**

In our annual reading of student papers for the SLO report to upper admin, the 2014-2015 UG committee concluded the following:

That everyone in the dept really should know what our dept. outcomes are:

<https://louisville.edu/english/department-filing-cabinet/tips-for-faculty/departmental-student-learning-outcomes.html>

we invite the possibility of reconsidering these if the dept. wills it.

--We think we as a dept. are doing an admirable job of teaching students to incorporate theory into their readings and that we teach a wide variety and diversity of texts. But we felt that too many of these papers presented summaries rather than analysis of the texts in question and that they often had weak thesis statements. And ironically enough, while the students seemed to have a good grasp of different

theoretical approaches, they often had difficulty incorporating secondary texts into their own arguments.

The Committee reported to upper admin that we will strive to make the dept. SLOs more widely known to the faculty and that we would refine our annual review process to eliminate some of the wider disparities in evaluation (double blind readings and collecting assignment sheets with the senior papers whenever possible).

### **Major Initiatives of last year:**

The CUE designation for most of our 500 level classes. Remember that we are required to have a CUE and this was seen to be the best answer given the resistance to our much more ambitious plan submitted previously. As part of this plan, we revised the Course goals for 500 level classes to include a paper of 10 pages or a research project of equivalent length: here is a link to course outcomes at all levels across the English Dept.:

<http://louisville.edu/english/departement-filing-cabinet/tips-for-faculty/course-goals-at-each-level>

Please note that this page also contains the syllabus guidelines and class cancellation policy.

And the Creative Writing minor has been approved for English majors! This option won't be in the catalogue until next Fall but students may pursue this path this year. We are currently resubmitting the request for a separate catalogue designation for CW classes as that was subsumed by the furor over the major/minor debate.

### **Major Initiatives for AY 2015-2016**

Things I hope to throw down before the UG committee

--Increased Social media profile?

--Getting permission to add DearEnglishMajor.com to our webpage

--Resurrect career day?

--brainstorming initiatives to recruit more majors. Perhaps more Gen Ed Humanities classes?

Generated some good ideas last year—thanks to all who wrote in.

--Moving required advising to Spring instead of Fall

--Ideas for service learning components. Will be big part of next QEP. Can we get ahead of the curve?

--revisit online courses. Currently all within the Composition program. Is 250 a candidate?