20201 Reports on work done by the following committees:

LCLC / RESEARCH COMMITTEE / SOCIAL MEDIA

By

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In July I assumed the directorship of the LCLC. Since then, I have worked with my administrative staff (Brandon and Janna) as well as the faculty committee (comprised largely of English faculty) to begin planning for an in-person conference to be held February 24-26th  2022 on campus. I will circulate our second call for papers shortly to all faculty and I would ask each faculty member to consider passing along the CFP to individuals and groups within their professional networks who might take an interest in submitting a proposal.

With my administrative team, I have begun the process of raising our profile on social media via our website, our Facebook page and our twitter feed. Our last Facebook post generated over 500 views so that is good news, and I would ask you to subscribe to the page if you are on Facebook and do what you can to promote the conference. To that end and as a way to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of this conference, I have begun a podcast devoted to compiling an oral history of the LCLC and I hope to be able to alert you to those episodes once I have finished postproduction work and have them accessible to the public for listening, and of course welcome suggestions for potential angles and interviews to secure to enhance that project.

If you are interested in serving on the LCLC committee, please let Glynis know. I am especially interested in adding new members who might be able to help me expand the focus of the conference to include more offerings on cultural studies topics, as well as offering focusing on scholarly or creative work in modern foreign languages or in issues of translation or on translated materials.

Moving on to the Research Committee. Last year the Research Committee oversaw a program offering compensation for guest instructors working with our faculty to enhance our virtual content offerings. Last year, the Research Committee reviewed and approved requests for 7 speakers submitted from 3 colleagues. The department has renewed this program for the current academic year. I have circulated the call for proposals earlier and the committee welcomes submissions from all colleagues. Although the committee reviews each submission on its own merits, I will share that in every instance the honorarium asked and approved for was 250 dollars for a class visit. If you have questions about the program please reach out to me.

Finally a report from the Social Media Committee. The committee focused its energy on initiating and then developing the department’s Youtube Channel. Prior to our summer hiatus, the committee produced and uploaded 11 videos spread over 3 playlists: visiting speakers, conversations about writing, and what I teach: introducing our faculty. I encourage all faculty to subscribe to the channel and review the content already posted. As of this morning, these videos have been viewed over 900 times. The committee is most interested in creating more What I Teach videos highlighting our faculty and their teaching. To this end, I encourage everyone to check out Megan Poole’s contribution as well as Frank Kaldermann’s video. Both are excellent and each takes a different approach. Also if you bring in a virtual guest, please consider taking the time to work with the social media committee to produce a brief video. I have uploaded two examples, one with Shakespeare Scholar Heather Hirschfeld on her work as Cambridge Editor of their new Hamlet and one with the actor Barrett Cooper on acting. Finally we will continue this year to develop our Facebook page as a vehicle to promote social networking among our students. The committee welcomes any and all input to enhance our social media presence and its effectiveness. Thank you.