

Minutes of Department of English meeting 10/8

Meeting conducted via Teams: 2:00-3:30p.m.

In attendance: Joshua Adams, David Anderson, Matthew Biberman, Morgan Blair (graduate student rep.), Karen Chandler, Amy Clukey, Alan Golding, Tim Johnson, Frank Kelderman, Karen Kopelson, Deborah Lutz, Mark Mattes, Kristi Maxwell, Andrea Olinger, Megan Poole, Andrew Rabin, Glynis Ridley (Chair), Susan Ryan, Stephen Schneider, Mary P. Sheridan, Steve Smith, Hristomir Stanev, Sarah Strickley, Bronwyn Williams, Ben Wilson.

Apologies: Paul Griner, Karen Hadley, Joe Turner.

1. Minutes of the meetings of 8/18 were approved.
2. Bronwyn Williams announced the departure of University Writing Center Administrative Assistant Amber Yocum. The Writing Center will seek to hire a new staff member as soon as possible.

Mark Mattes (as member of Undergraduate Committee) described recruitment initiatives and turnout at 2 recent majors fairs.

3. Karen Chandler, Director of Undergraduate Studies, highlighted talking points for upcoming class visits to promote the English major. Faculty were encouraged to continue expanding and updating existing info. on further study/employment of department alums.
4. On behalf of Graduate Committee, Kristi Maxwell explained proposed clarifications to the language re. SLA requirements. The following website language, moved and seconded by Graduate Committee, was unanimously approved:

Secondary Literary Area Exam

The SLA requires students to articulate a secondary research area in literary studies (including creative writing, critical theory, or cultural studies) that will complement their research in Rhetoric and Composition and/or enable them to develop competence in a field of study that will help them achieve breadth as scholars and teachers. Ideally, the SLA will build on areas of inquiry students have encountered in graduate-level coursework. To fulfill the SLA requirement, students must:

- Identify a specific area of inquiry within literary studies, creative writing, critical theory, or cultural studies.
- Work with one English department faculty member who specializes in that field and who will advise in the production of the lists and oversee the oral exam. A second English department faculty member will serve on the committee as a second reader. These two readers will approve the lists, conduct the exam, and assess the student's performance.
- Generate a list of at least twenty (20) book-length texts (shorter individual texts may be combined to produce one book-length text). The list shall consist of a mixture of major primary and secondary sources.
- Identify a series of significant scholarly, interpretive, or critical questions central to the chosen field of study.

· Undergo an oral exam based on these lists of texts and questions. Success on the exam will be based on 1) a student's ability to demonstrate knowledge of the major primary and secondary texts in the chosen field of study; 2) a student's familiarity with the major theoretical and methodological questions informing the chosen field; and 3) a student's ability to discuss possible future areas of research or teaching in the chosen field.

- Students must secure two passing votes to pass the exam.

Unsuccessful Secondary Literary Area Examinations

· If a student fails the initial SLA Exam, the Committee will schedule the re-take within three months of the initial exam, unless an extension is arranged with the DGS.

5. Amy Clukey explained plans by Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Professor Cherie Dawson-Edwards, for diversity audits of syllabi and encouraged the department to be a leader in inclusive syllabi design.

On behalf of DEI Committee, Frank Kelderman led a discussion of best classroom practices to promote inclusion, and highlighted helpful web resources.

Amy Clukey explained the concept of allyship. Andrea Olinger reminded everyone of Diversity, Engagement, Culture and Climate (DECC) programming and workshops.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.