

Department of English

Meeting of 2/3/23 for tenured/tenure-track faculty only

Meeting started at 2:00 in HM300

Present: Joshua Adams, David Anderson, Matthew Biberman, Paul Griner, Karen Hadley, Tim Johnson, Frank Kelderman, Mark Mattes, Kristi Maxwell, Andrea Olinger, Megan Poole, Andrew Rabin, Glynis Ridley (Chair), Susan Ryan, Stephen Schneider, Bronwyn Williams.

Apologies: Amy Clukey, Karen Kopelson, Deborah Lutz, Hristomir Stanev, Ian Stansel. (On sabbatical: Karen Chandler, Mary P. Sheridan.)

Minutes

Announcements

- Tim (Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies) made two announcements:
 - o A reminder about the new SLO student paper submission protocols. Now faculty teaching a 500/CUE course will receive a heads up that they have a graduating senior and they will turn in the final paper from the CUE course.
 - o Just a reminder to get in course descriptions

- Paul Griner reminded the group to turn in their personnel files.

- Megan Poole—in her inaugural faculty meeting—announced that departmental Instagram is going live and encouraged anyone teaching interesting lessons to take photos/produce content to populate the Instagram channel.

- Matthew Biberman made two announcements:
 - o reminded the faculty to register for, and attend, the LCLC
 - o reminded the faculty that there is money to bring in speakers virtually and in-person. Deadlines for this are rolling.

- Susan Ryan advocated for a change in policy to allow for term faculty members to vote on chair and personnel policies.

Tenure Track Line Request Discussion

- Glynis Ridley noted that the department has been seeking authorization to search for an assistant professor tenure track in creative writing/poetry, ever since the departure of Kiki Petrosino to the University of Virginia in summer 2019. Enrolment numbers and an increasing institutional emphasis on experiential learning and internship opportunities suggest that a revised strategy might improve chances of success.
 - o Ridley proposed reframing the bid as **“creative writing with digital publishing.”** Bid paperwork would refer to the success of Miracle Monocle in providing internship opportunities/experiential learning.
- Vice Chair Andrew Rabin concurred, adding that faculty needs are spread thin, but creative writing is in the most dire straights for covering the needs of the major.
- Paul Griner noted that even if this digital hire went through, poetry remains an area that is heavily under-staffed. He wanted to put in a plug for a second bid in a year’s time to fill the missing Petrosino line.
- Wide-ranging discussion followed, highlighting areas of greatest need. The merits of making more than one line bid this year were considered.
- Recognizing budget situation at college level, meeting agreed to focus on only one line this year.
- Kristi Maxwell inquired about the possibility of a joint line with Comparative Humanities (in response to the line they might fill for Michael Williams).

Vote!

- On the table: Approval of an ask for **Assistant Professor Tenure Track in Creative Writing with a focus in Digital Publishing**
 - o Unanimously Passed. [16 votes]. No abstentions. No “no” votes.

Any Other Business

- David Anderson introduced concerns over the possibility of particular faculty, departments, and courses being targeted by the state legislature (a precedent being set in Florida). Ridley noted PAS Chair Ricky Jones has mentioned state legislation in chairs’ meeting and discussion is expected to be ongoing re. UofL response.
- Hadley brought up concerns about ChatGPT.

- Bronwyn, as WC Director, noted that the WC is doing a series of events and roundtables to reaffirm that ChatGPT is a very small part of writing/writing cultures.
- Andrea Olinger, Composition Director, mentioned a few more events addressing ChatGPT to come in April.

There being no further business, the meeting closed shortly before 3:00 p.m.