

## **English Department Faculty Meeting Notes 11/3/23**

In attendance: Bronwyn Williams, Karen Hadley, Matthew Biberman, Sarah Strickley, Ian Stansel, Kristi Maxwell, Megan Poole, Mark Mattes, David Anderson, Frank Kelderman, Karen Kopelson, Mary P Sheridan, Marie Pruitt, Kylee Auten, Kristie Ennis, Andrew Rabin, Karen Chandler, Tim Johnson

### **1. Announcements**

Mary P. - Writing to Public Audiences Workshop - Next Friday at Noon (Stevenson 417)

Ian - Workshop/Discussion of Grad School Apps - Next Friday at 1 (HM 205?)

Andrew - Registration has started; Encourage students to register (Cancellation Thresholds: 100-300: 15 students (in practice, not canceled until below 10); 400: 10 students; 500 and 600: 6 students)

### **2. Graduate program—Frank Kelderman**

#### **a. Graduate Committee's proposed policy on residency requirement**

Presented proposal on PhD Program Guidelines Revision to advise non-GTA doctoral students on a distribution of credit hours in their first year of study in order to meet the graduate school's residency requirements. Handout provided by Kelderman.

Karen K. - Concern with potentially dissuading students hoping to enroll part-time; Kelderman will review language to highlight flexibility for such students.

Mary P. - Voiced concern over potential for additional summer labor/uncompensated labor over summer for faculty (say, defending dissertations, etc.) - Frank clarifies that UofL requires faculty to be available over the summer for dissertation students, regardless of 10-month salaries.

Moreover, candidacy fees for graduate students defending over the summer are usually waived, and thus grad students are encouraged to defend over the summer by college.

*Unanimous approval of proposed language.*

#### **b. BA/MA track: sharing information, gathering feedback**

Next, Kelderman broached grad committee's exploration of 4-to-1 accelerated track BA to MA program.

Benefits include flexibility with nontraditional students and recruitment of BA students who might not otherwise consider our MA.

Complications include GPA prereqs; timing; workload factors; availability of courses to get a person through the MA in one year's time - the issue is not total classes available, but rather the matter of flexibility for the student to choose what they'd most want to take. Also, concerns about workload for students. This accelerated track may only be appropriate for exceptional students. Also, concerned about an accelerated program competing with the 2-year MA recruitment (and subsequently, the filling of GTA funding lines and positions they'd fill in the UWC, etc.).

Andrew notes that we would be able to compensate with more course offerings at the 600 level if demand arises.

Ian: Who is this for? Frank: Exceptional students dedicated to coursework who have zero interest in teaching writing courses / comp courses, tutoring, etc.

Karen K.: Will this result in undergrads in 600-levels? Frank: No.

Frank: Elaborated a bit on how non-GTA MA students fund their degrees.

Hadley: Question about GPA min threshold. Frank discussed grad committee's practices regarding min GPA for acceptance and noted the college min of 2.75. Noted the lack of stated minimum for MA program in general and concern about pitting that absence of requirement against a MA accelerated track with a requirement.

Megan: Eng Ed student might be a good target? Getting an MA quickly is a benefit for pay and experience when hitting the job market.

Karen C.: Direct further questions and concerns to Frank.

### **3. Undergraduate program—Sarah Strickley**

**(Handout distributed)**

**a. The UG committee continues examining a possible bottleneck on the PPW track and has considered the prospect of removing ENGL 310 as a pre-requisite for ENGL 405, 407, 480 and 509. We'd like to talk through the ramifications of this choice and perhaps consider other methods for supporting the PPW track**

**b. Prospect of adding WR status to PPW courses.**

Concerned with developing a revision of CIM language that will address the 310 bottleneck while making sure the various committees that must approve these changes will not blanche at a full-on removal of prereq language.

Megan: Can we add “or permission of instructor” to each prerequisite field for the above listed courses. Bronwyn thinks this revision is a good step. Megan and Tim: This change, combined with attaching WR designations, would be a great move.

Sarah S.: Let’s vote.

*Proposal to add “or with permission of instructor” to above listed courses on handout.  
Unanimous approval.*

*Proposal to add WR status to 405, 407, 480, 509. Unanimous approval.*

*Proposal to add CUE 599 designation to 509. Unanimous approval.*

Mark: At another time - not now! - can UG committee go through the registrar’s descriptions of 500 level courses and correct the lack of CUE designations for the various 500 level courses that ARE CUE courses?

#### **4. Revised proposal for Alumni Committee—Andrew Rabin**

PROPOSAL FOR A DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ALUMNI OUTREACH (Distributed as a handout)

##### Composition

The committee will be composed of three or more tenured or tenure-track faculty members drawn from the Creative Writing, Literature, and Rhetoric and Composition programs.

##### Brief

The purpose of this committee is to seek out ways of establishing stronger connections with department alumni through outreach and engagement. Possible ways of doing so include:

- Development of an annual or bi-annual newsletter directed at alumni and community members.
- Coordinate with the Social Media Committee to increase alumni followers on departmental social media accounts.
- Collect data from the Office of Academic Planning and Accountability (OAPA) for use in developing outreach programming.

This list is not meant to be exhaustive, and other objectives are expected to emerge as the committee begins its work.

Mary P. - Concern that college metrics of assessing our merit/performance that may be on the horizon will hurt faculty when devoting time to any service obligation that is an unfunded great idea.

Andrew: At the previous faculty meeting during which we discussed an alumni committee, the idea was to possibly give the dean a win, but it’s our prerogative to say “no” to mega workload.

Kristi and Megan: Wondered about bringing alumni work within social media committee. Would need to expand the committee.

David: Expressed concern with duplication of work across committees if a separate committee.

Karen K.: "Not. Our. Job."

Mark: Repackage existing efforts into a public facing communication that is once or twice a year.

Andrew: We are talking about three possibilities...are we choosing a separate committee, a combo committee, or doing nothing?

*Motion to vote on proposal. Failure to secure "second." Motion failed.*

Are we then expanding the social media/tech committee to officially be charged with alumni engagement/outreach? Adding a member or two? Bronwyn suggests we should think together to consider a holistic revision of certain committee charges/structures. Andrew agrees to work with Bronwyn on that.

## **5. Research Committee—Matthew Biberman and Karen Hadley (Handout provided)**

### **a. Update on October 20 A&S brainstorming meeting on research**

Hadley gives brief overview of research committee handout.

### **b. Department Research Committee's charges**

Matthew solicits input on how research committee might be able to help dept members secure funding through public/private/internal/external means. Please email the research committee with ideas.

Mary P suggests that research committee might be a voice that communicates the value of the non-funded kinds of work that we do during the college's assessment revisions of RCA that may be on the horizon