

English Department Faculty Meeting

16 February 2024

2:02 pm

Bingham Humanities 300

In attendance: David Anderson, Karen Chandler (chair, note-taker), Amy Clukey, Paul Griner, Timothy Johnson, Frank Kelderman, Karen Kopelson, Mark Mattes, Kristi Maxwell, Andrea Olinger, Stephen Schneider, Hristomir Stanev, Ian Stansel, Joe Turner

Announcements:

- The Writing Center will observe International Mother Language Day 12:30-2 pm on Wednesday, 21 February, in the lobby of Ekstrom Library.
- LCLC will offer virtual panels, Monday and Tuesday, 19-20 February, and will be in person, Thursday-Saturday, 22-24 February. Please remember to register.
- Eleven students will be sharing their work at the Graduate Student Workshop on April 5, 12-2, after Kiki Petrosino's workshop in the Axton series. Contact Joe for more information.
- Amy recommended that department members join United Campus Workers
- Frank mentioned that some prospective graduate students will be visiting during the LCLC. Please be ready to welcome them, should the opportunity come up.
- Periodic Career Reviews are not a new thing. They have long been handled by the chair. There was a request for more transparency about the process.
- Karen will circulate a message from Sherri Wallace about guidelines for political speech.

The meeting focused on determining priorities for hiring requests and discussed components for the hiring plan the dean has requested.

- We discussed CW and PPW tracks' growth and needs
 - Stephen wondered how frequent PPW course cancellations jibe with numbers showing the track's growth.
 - Some discussion followed about the problem of students waiting to register, which leads to course cancellation. There was also discussion of the lists of potential majors.
 - Kristi brought focus back to hiring matters, saying that it's important to have security for faculty editor of *MM*, an exceptional embodiment of the College's and University's commitment to experiential learning
 - General acknowledgement that *MM* and PPW classes open up career possibilities to students

- Tim asked: how do we translate our successes and our smaller numbers in a context with far larger departments?
- David mentioned the dean's concern with efficiency and need to use rhetoric related to growth. Reminded us that dean needs language to advocate for us (and other departments) with the central administration
- Amy: Lit needs to hustle.
- Excitement about new Literature and Medicine course—faculty, including Karen K, are interested in teaching it. Stephen is scheduled to teach it in the fall.
 - Karen C, responding to another attendee's surprise that the course would be offered, wondered if we need to tweak our way of sharing our course preferences
- Frank said that the MA program can grow and CW has significant appeal for MA students. But CW is important to some PhD students (use of *MM* for recruitment; occasionally a PhD student will work for CW program).
- Need for additional faculty member to cover additional graduate courses in CW; we offer no more than one a semester for now. Ian: We don't want to jeopardize our undergraduate offerings to invest more in graduate courses.
- Mark noted the generative crossover between PPW and CW
 - Ian responded: magazine writing is one area where PPW and CW overlap
- Stephen commented that some redundancy is necessary. If one person is on leave, there should be another faculty member who can do some of their job.
- Amy mentioned the importance of promoting to the dean a vision of the whole department as responsive to student needs, promoting growth, public-facing, providing real-life applications
- Ian suggested that we request a CW line. Tim suggested that a second choice be a Rhet/Comp line.
- We proceeded to a vote on the first motion--to request a CW line, open genre, with a specialization in literary and digital publishing. It passed with 13 "yes" votes.
- We also voted to request a Rhet/Comp line, if making a second request would not jeopardize the first. We decided that the make-up of the Rhet/Comp line would be decided later. It was deemed our second choice. (Karen will get Susan Ryan's advice about the viability of requesting two lines and report back to faculty.) The vote passed with 12 "yes" votes and one abstention.

The meeting ended at 3:25.

