

Department Meeting

May 5, 2005

Presiding: Mary A. McCay

Attending: Ted Cotton, Katie Ford, Marcus Smith, Ray McGowan, Jennifer Shimek, Kate Adams, Andrew Macdonald, John Biguenet, Robert Bell, Phaniel Egejuru, Student Rep: Clair Marie Nemanich.

Reports:

Kate Adams reported on the evaluation process for ENGL T125. This spring will be the first evaluation of the second course in the Freshman English Program. Kate will not report back to faculty individually, but holistically on the program as a whole. Faculty members are welcome to review the papers and scores of those in their classes.

Kate also reported on her discussions with the Dean about changing the exemption level for 122 from 6y50-700, Sat, and from 30-31, Act. Since both testing services are instituting writing tests, the department will reevaluate our exemption system next year.

Mary McCay gave a report on the Council of Chairs, noting that the reassessment of the common curriculum numbering will return to the Common Curriculum Committee.

Robert Bell reported on the writing intensive course proposal that a sub-committee of the Council of Chairs worked on.

Some faculty asked that more of the words and ideas in the proposal needed clarification. There was also the concern that there might be no writing in courses that are not designated as "writing intensive." The question of ENGL T122 and 125 was also discussed, and Robert Bell pointed out that they might be considered as pre-requisites for "writing intensive" courses. The question of whether other introductory common curriculum would qualify as writing intensive was also discussed.

Kate Adams gave a report on the proposal from the Arts and Sciences Task Force on Academic Advising.

There have been issues about advising because of the disparity in advising loads and because of student concerns about advising. Some in the department are dubious about advising evaluation forms. The department needs protocols and possible student check lists for advising

The proposal for first-year advising needs to be carefully considered so that students who are interested in English as a major actually get to know the department. There is also the possibility that a first-year majorless advising program and other shifts in Arts and Sciences could indicate a move to divisions instead of departments.

The department also discussed the issue of Federal Questionnaire about students failing courses. The question of failure to attend at least sixty percent of classes brings up the question of whether or not that is a baseline for us. The Gov. rescinds Pell grants if a person fails a course that he/she has attended less than sixty percent of the time. It does not rescind Pell grants of those who fail but attend more than sixty percent of the time.

Kate Adams said it was a pleasure working with her colleagues in the department.

Mary McCay thanked everyone for all the hard work contributed to the department this year.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.