

Minutes for Department Meeting      November 9, 2006

Attending: Kate Adams, Robert Bell, Chris Chambers, Ted Cotton, Phaniel Egejuru, Dale Hebrik, Jennifer Jeanfreau, Peggy McCormack, Martin Pousson, John Sebastian, Marcus Smith.

Presiding: Mary McCay

1. Review and approval of October dept. minutes. Minutes were reviewed and unanimously accepted.
2. Announcements
  - Ted Announced that Reader's Response needed papers and gave out the list of courses eligible.
  - Martin Pousson announced that the Loyola/Tulane Reading Series will open with a reading by Chris Wiltz. Martin has lined up other readers for the spring.
  - Mary McCay announced that Vitas are due Friday.
  - MM asked Tenured faculty to start reading the applications for Poetry and for 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - MM announced that two upper division under-enrolled courses would be closed. 330 and 423.
3. Reports: Council of Chairs: a) Mary reported that the student-faculty ratio is at 10.5/1. While this might be a good advertising point for students, it is bad for business. b) Several faculty members did not turn in mid-semester grades. We must remember to do that. c) Untenured faculty will be given the right to request an additional probationary year. d) There is an opportunity for a faculty member to serve as an intern in the Dean's office. Those interested should contact the dean.
4. Election in department of CRTC rep, SORC rep, and Handbook Committee rep. Kate Adams will do SORC, Ted Cotton will serve on CRTC, and Mary will ask John to serve on the Handbook Committee. These committees will have reps from each department.
5. Discussion of Notes from Meeting with CC reps last spring. Many faculty thought that the notes did not really reflect our thoughts on the Common Curriculum: most notably: a) We feel that bullet three should read What is goal of CC, not is goal sociological or educational. We never discussed it in those either or terms. b) We do not think our courses in the CC are high school level. Our students do not say "we did this in high school," nor did any of us say it in the meeting. We do use primary texts for all our cc classes. We mentioned no other departments in our discussion. c) Problem of Standardization: half should read most. We have only one tenured professor who has not taught in the CC. d) We did not say we need more skills courses outside the CC. In fact, we discussed this at length and feel that, while 122 and 125 do teach skills, they also go far beyond a simple skills-level course. That aside, skills-level courses is a pejorative term. e) Most of the notes that Alice sent us are general and do not really apply to our

discussion. This might be a general template? However, we, as members of the English department, spend a good deal of our time planning, developing, and teaching in the common curriculum. We want that to be reflected in the notes to the CC Task Force.

6. Discussion of Film Studies minor. The department discussed proposing a change to the film studies minor. We will propose to take it out of the interdisciplinary minor and make it an EngF minor. Students will take How to Read a film—370 number will be changed to 270—and five other film courses. The proposal was approved unanimously, and Mary will forward our proposal to the HUNS Curriculum Committee.
7. Other business: No new business, Meeting adjourned at 1:10, so tenured faculty could meet.