

Tenured Faculty Meeting  
August 25, 2005

Attending: Melanie McKay, Ted Cotton, Paulette Richards, Phaniel Egejuru, Marcus Smith,  
Presiding: Mary McCay

The Chair read the announcement that was approved last semester by the tenured faculty for a job in Romanticism. The advertisement will be in the MLA Job Information List.

The Chair discussed an issue that had come up at the council of Chairs Meeting on Monday, August 22, 2005. Some departments have no procedures for allowing all faculty to have input in the hiring process, and this has caused concern about process. The English department opens all files to all ordinary faculty members, tenured and untenured, and asks for input from those who read the files. The entire tenured faculty decides on the 15 candidates to interview at the MLA, and the hiring committee reports to the tenured faculty on its suggestions for campus interviews for campus interviews after the MLA meetings. When an untenured member of the department has specific expertise (for example in creative writing), that person is specifically requested to give input.

Marcus Smith proposed that the following be inserted in the minutes: All applications for tenure track positions are open to review by every ordinary faculty member in the English department.

When asked if anyone felt left out of the process, Paulette Richards said she did because untenured ordinary faculty did not get to vote on hires. She said that in five years there would be more untenured ordinary faculty in the department than tenured, so they should have a vote. There are currently 13 tenured members in the department. It is possible that half would retire in the next five years. Whether that will happen, given retirement laws, is an unknown.

Ted Cotton said that Paulette had brought up this issue before, but then he corrected his statement to say that she had brought it up to him, but he had neglected to bring it to the Protocol Committee or the Department.

Paulette will write a statement to amend the Protocol; it will go to the Protocol Committee and then to the department at the September meeting.