Meeting Notes 3/21

In Attendance: Dr. Maria Cahill, Professor Natala Orobello, Dr. Scott Ortolano, Professor Jason Calabrese, Dr. Ann Eastman, Professor Ihasha Horn, & Dr. James Langlas

* Dr. Maria Cahill noted that the English Department at Texas Tech has agreed to allow our faculty members to enroll as non-degree students and take online tech communication courses. Texas Tech has one of the strongest technical communication programs in the country and offers a very large selection of online summer courses. Faculty members who enroll as non-degree-seeking graduate students will be able to take four courses under this status. People interested in taking more can apply to formally enter the program and complete a technical communication certificate—something that they said was also a possibility. However, the core courses for this program are only offered in the fall and spring.
  + Prof. Ihasha Horn asked about the possibility of taking courses in USF or UCF's technical communication programs.
    - Dr. Scott Ortolano responded that this is also an option and something that was investigated. However, these programs offer only one course in technical communication over the summer (often the same course), so as of right now, they aren't options for people who want to take courses during the summer. Regardless, faculty members can take courses whenever and however they would like, and Texas Tech is just one of many options. It is just being suggested because of 1) the strength of the program and 2) the large selection of online summer courses.
  + Dr. Ihasha Horn asked how many courses people would need to take to teach a course in the program. Dr. Cahill responded that this would depend on the course and the person's educational background. Some courses might require multiple classes while others might not require any at all.
* Dr. Maria Cahill and Dr. Scott Ortolano reminded everyone that the committee will host a session on building an English degree at this November's South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA) conference. Everyone is encouraged to participate and those who would like to do so were asked to let Dr. Cahill and Dr. Ortolano know so that they can put together a funding request for the trip and finish writing the session details.
  + During the sessions, we will talk about our experiences building the degree program, and our presentation would be conducted in a round table format so there won't be much pressure on anyone individually. This will be a way of continuing a broader dialogue with the field and also publicizing some of the great work that we're doing here.
* Dr. Maria Cahill also mentioned plans to host a session at the Conference on College Composition and Communication's (CCCC) 2015 convention, which will take place in Tampa next March. This conference will be discussed in greater depth later on in the semester.
* Dr. Maria Cahill noted that she had put together a tentative course schedule for the program with the help of Dr. Scott Ortolano. A draft was circulated to committee members and Dr. Cahill asked for feedback before her meeting with Dr. Wright on March 31st.
* Dr. Maria Cahill noted that she was in the final stages of developing a brochure for the program. A draft will be sent around to committee members during the coming days, and any feedback should be given prior to her meeting with Dr. Wright on March 31st.
* Dr. Maria Cahill noted that we were beginning to put together a committee of business leaders in the community who will support our degree and provide a base for our internship program.
  + Committee members were asked to forward Dr. Cahill the names of people they know who are active in the business community or who work for the government or non-profit organization and might be interested or know people who might be interested in being on this committee.
* Dr. Ann Eastman presented her course proposal for SPC 3311 Computer-Mediated Communication.
  + She expressed her belief that the course synced up perfectly with the program as a whole. To use her words, "it is an exciting, cutting edge course for an exciting, cutting edge program." The committee completely agreed with her assessment.
  + Minor changes were suggested and the course will be brought through the first curriculum meeting of the fall with the second batch of courses for the bachelor's degree program.

At this point, the meeting was concluded.

Notes prepared by Dr. Scott Ortolano