

English Department Meeting Notes

April 12, 2019

1:00-3:00 PM

Lee: U-102, Char: E-105, Collier: A-103, H/G: A-106

In attendance: Amy Trogan, Rebecca Harris, Shawn Moore, Thomas Mohundro, Scott Ortolano, Thomas Wayne, Sara Dustin, Jeremy Pilarski, Jennifer Grove, Jill Hummel, Brandi George, Cara Minardi-Power, Katie Waddell, Ellie Bunting, John Pelot, Eric Ivy, Laura Tichy-Smith

Excused: Natala Orobello, Jason Calabrese, Ellie Bunting

Absent: David Luther, Michael Joy

1. Approval of February Meeting Minutes
 - a. These minutes will be approved during our next meeting
2. eLearning/IT Q&A: Jason Dudley, Roz Jester, and Shawn Moore
 - a. We are going through a process now to make sure that curriculum development at FSW is happening via appropriate channels and meeting state standards.
 - b. The plan is to shift to a system in which people who want to develop a course will receive training, become approved, create a course, receive a stipend for crafting a high quality course (around \$1,000-\$1,400). The college will spend \$1,000 to have the course approved through Quality Matters for the state. An additional bonus will be allotted if the course is an OER class.
 - c. This new system will let people work at their own pace when developing a class and maintain ownership and control of the course once they have developed it. In the current system, faculty members are beholden to stricter deadlines and lose control of the course once they sign it over to the college.
 - d. The idea is that this will benefit everyone by creating a more flexible process that will better meet concerns and needs of faculty and students.
 - e. Currently, the stipend that paid by the college is used to purchase a course that the faculty member has developed on their own time. The new system more accurately compensates and protects the intellectual property rights of faculty members—in a way that isn't possible under the current system.
 - f. This is also a more democratic process as faculty members can create their own courses whenever they would like to do so and be compensated for it.
 - g. Finally, the new system will allow the school to demonstrate that our courses are meeting the necessary state standards and meet SACHS accreditation.
 - i. Dr. Moore- Suggests adding a faculty liaison with IT that would help faculty have concerns addressed when tech issues arise.
3. Update: Lee, Collier, Charlotte hiring
 - a. Charlotte Campus hiring process
 - i. Interviews are ongoing and they are now down to three candidates
 - b. Collier and Lee campus searches have concluded successfully!
4. Update: Summer/Fall Schedule
 - a. There were some errors on the summer/fall schedule when they were entered into Banner. We think they have all been fixed, but everyone should check their schedules to make sure it is all listed correctly.
5. Assessment: Dr. Amy Trogan

- a. Assessment report is dispersed.
 - b. No amendments to the report are suggested.
 - c. One thing we'll focus on in the future is closing the loop on some of the discrepancies. In particular, we'll need to think about some of the philosophical ideas that underpin our assessment strategies. This will be a specific emphasis during the next academic year.
6. Writing Center Liaison Update: Dr. Scott Ortolano
- a. We've had a good year for the most part and accomplished quite a bit, but I also think that things have probably gone as far as I can take them in the current model.
 - b. The Writing Center leadership and I had some discussions about what the future might look like. Quite a few ideas and options have floated around and bounced back and forth without any clear resolutions, and it might be best for someone else to come in and offer their vision for this role. I was reluctant when I initially stepped into the position, but I did so because we had such a strong need for change. With some of the great new faculty, we have plenty of folks with educational emphases in this area.
 - c. Thanks to everyone for putting your time and trust in me throughout this academic year.
 - d. Dr. Katie Waddell and Dr. Amy Trogan will do some collaborative goal setting with the Writing Center and try to continue to make headway.
 - e. General discussion occurs in which faculty members express continuing concerns about long term quality issues with the Writing Center and whether the ability/willingness exists to correct them in the current model. The consensus is that the English Department should continue to give the current system one additional year before we proceed to any alternative options.
7. Update: Pre-College/Developmental Writing Taskforce
- a. Materials will be available in August, and everyone will be kept in the loop as things evolve.
 - b. One unique concept in the works right now is a librarian pilot model where librarians will be assigned to specific sections to work with students. This is a collaboration with the library, Prof. Arenthia Herren is the point person, and the hope is that this will improve students' overall performance.
 - i. We will have assessments in place to measure the pilots and then proceed from there.
8. Continuing Contract Review Committee
- a. Dr. Shawn Moore is up for continuing contract during the 2019-20 academic year. The committee is in the process of being formed. Email Dr. Harris if you're interested in joining.
9. Save the Date
- a. Don't forget to come out to the end-of-year picnic at Lakes Park to celebrate the conclusion of the academic year as a department!
10. Committee/Subcommittee & Faculty Updates
- a. Dr. Ortolano- Reminder about Digital Pedagogy Open House on April 26th.
 - b. Prof. Laura Tichy-Smith- Provides information about the upcoming FCEA conference
 - i. Dr. Grove- Notes that the FCEA is talking about creating a certification process for English Departments, which might be something to look into as it develops.

- c. Dr. Moore is teaching a Shakespeare course that is linked with Anatomy and Physiology (called ShakeMed); the linked classes will occur on the same day and students will have the benefit of taking two required courses at once.
11. Additional New Business
- a. Prof. Hummel- Asks whether students still need to receive at least a C on the research paper to pass the composition courses.
 - i. Dr. Harris- Due to changes in requirements at the state level, this is no longer in the course's language, but it is something many instructors are still doing for quality purposes.
 - b. A broader discussion follows about updating the course descriptions for Composition classes and a range of other classes. Everyone agrees to put this on the docket moving forward.

Meeting concludes

Notes prepared by Dr. Scott Ortolano