

# English Department Meeting Agenda

2/10/17

Starts: 1:05

Ends: 2:30

Lee	AA-177
Charlotte	O-118
Collier	M-120
Hendry/Glades	A-106

**In Attendance:** Amanda Lehrian, Natala Orobello, Thomas Mohundro, Martha Ambrose, Scott Ortolano, Amy Trogan, Thomas Wayne, Rebecca Harris, Jill Hummel, Ihasha Horn, Sara Dustin, Jim Langlas, Jason Calabrese, Michael Joy, John Pelot, Ellie Bunting, Jeremy Pilarski, Shawn Moore, Jennifer Grove, David Luther

**Excused:** N/A

**Absent:** Keith Hunter

- Notes from previous meeting are unanimously approved.
- ENC 1101 Handbook Committee Recommendation
  - Dr. Harris- The committee scored all five books in three categories (price, ease of access, & thoroughness)
  - Official recommendation is *The Little Seagull Handbook*
    - Very thorough (in terms of the resources for using traditional research as well as for writing about and composing in digital mediums).
    - One of the most affordable of the group (\$25 base, \$10 if bundled with another book, and an ebook option for \$15).
    - Four years of online resources are included as part of the student's purchase.
    - Integrates seamlessly with Canvas.
  - The other options were strong as well, but didn't measure up as well in all of the metrics.
    - *EasyWriter* was the next closest option, but came in at more money with equal resources.
    - McGraw-Hill made a valiant effort to lower the costs for *The McGraw-Hill Handbook*, but it was still going to be more money and that was with an additional fee added to the course—which could be problematic for a number of reasons. Furthermore, the resources for this book were not found to be superior to the other, more affordable textbooks.
      - Dr. Grove- Notes that we should decide if we would like to use the version of *The Little Seagull Handbook* with the exercises or without them.

- Both versions cost the same amount. Regardless, we want to make sure one version is required consistently.
    - The agreement is to use the option with exercises so that we have more available content for professors, especially since there is no price difference between them.
  - In total, the book should be much better for students and faculty—in terms of price and quality.
  - Department vote takes place (Prof. Bunting makes the motion, Dr. Harris seconds).
    - The department unanimously moves to adopt *The Little Seagull Handbook*.
- Online Citation Revision Revisited
  - Prof. Lehrian asked Dr. McClinton about this issue:
    - \$2,000 will be dedicated to the group that revises the content.
    - The online courses will need to be updated and an MLA module will need to be created that can be implemented into all courses.
    - People who are interested should contact Prof. Lehrian
- Online Revision and Possible Open Source Texts
  - A new course rating system will be used in 2018 for online courses that will rate the courses on a unified system. Courses that use open-source materials are eligible for an especially high rating.
  - All of the colleges in the public college and university system in Florida will have their courses pooled together, and students will be able to choose which courses they would like to take.
  - It would help our online courses if they were open-access. Prof. Bunting and Prof. Ambrose are going to work on making our LIT 2000 course, the department’s most popular literature course, open-access so that we can compete when this change is made.
- Curriculum: Gen. Ed. Core Proposal follow up
  - Everyone greatly appreciated the statement that was created by the department about the importance of Humanities courses in the General Education curriculum.
  - Luckily, this statement didn’t need to go to curriculum, but it was a good thing to have prepared, and it contributed to a general wave of similar sentiment across the college.
- Assessment Discussion
  - Dr. Harris- At almost 100% return for assessed assignments from the fall
  - A revised rubric has been created, and volunteers are needed to pilot the rubric.
  - Prof. Hummel- LIT 2000 course grades seemed a bit high and there is some concern that we might have a problem with grades being slightly higher than they should be for these classes.

- Dr. Ortolano- When this issue first came up, we thought that it would be helpful to have something to compare our scores against. I asked FGCU's English Department for their data for this class so we can have a comparative data set. They agreed, but they also asked if we might be willing to reciprocate.
          - Dr. Ortolano asks if it would be okay for him to share the data (in an anonymous format) with FGCU's English Department in return—in the name of openness and collegiality.
            - Permission granted by everyone in attendance so long as Dr. McClinton says that it is okay.
- Scheduling
  - Prof. Lehrian- The fall schedule has gone to the schedule optimizer with no conflicts and adjuncts are being added in now to cover the remaining courses. Things should start appearing in Portal soon, so please keep an eye on it and let Prof. Lehrian know if something looks out of place.
    - Dr. Harris asks about the scheduling policy to request computer rooms.
      - Prof. Lehrian- Previously, faculty were not be able to request rooms, but that policy has changed. You should let Prof. Lehrian know if a computer room would be significantly helpful for your courses.
        - Prof. Bunting- Announces that there is a new pilot program at work where a “Bring your own device” note can be attached to courses. Students who sign up for one of these classes will be expected to bring their laptops with them. The rooms will also be set up to accommodate this kind of technology. Prof. Bunting asks if she would like to be included. Dr. Harris responds that the idea sounds great and she absolutely would.
- Revised Department Chair Guidelines
  - The job description for department chairs was revised by a committee, and the revised guidelines have been available on Canvas this week. The floor is opened to general discussion about the revisions.
  - Prof. Bunting- Some tweaks were made but the process still needs to go through bargaining for release time, etc.
  - Prof. Lehrian- One concern is that the revised guidelines place scheduling back into the hands of deans. It is time-consuming to schedule classes and more release time is needed as compensation, but it is useful to have the process under departmental control because it's easier for the Department Chair to give advice to and work with faculty.
  - Dr. Harris- One concern is that it felt like a lot of energy was put into getting more power for chairs and now it is being lost to people who might not have knowledge about our field and the needs of students in our courses—regardless of how well-intentioned they may be.

- Prof. Bunting- Reminds everyone that it is still a bargaining process, and these are just recommendations of what the Union will then bargain for.
  - Her recommendation would actually be to advocate for full release so people have the amount of time to do all of the required work.
- Dr. Grove- Raises concerns about the guideline that states that a chair will “Provide[] feedback to the supervising administrator in regards to departmental faculty’s contribution to the department and college.”
  - General discussion follows about what this will mean in terms of workload and practice for department chairs.
- Prof. Lehrian- Asks who feedback should be sent to since there are questions/concerns about the guidelines and the committee has been disbanded.
  - Prof. Bunting and Prof. Ambrose- Note that this is a concern for them because the next step is the bargaining process.
    - Prof. Ambrose- The solution might be to create an online discussion forum and have faculty offer feedback for the union to consider during bargaining.
      - General agreement to this idea.
- Journalism Panel/FSW Writes
  - Reminds everyone that the flyer is available on Canvas. It will take place on Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm in the Rush Auditorium. It should be a great event. We’re so excited to have Leonard Pitts along with two great local journalists.
    - Everyone thanks Dr. Trogan for doing such excellent work!!!
- Creative Writing Club
  - Poetry, Prose, and Rhythm event will be on February 23<sup>rd</sup> outside by the koi pond. We had about 100 students last time, so very excited about possibility for this event. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
- Rose Kosche-
  - Prof. Ambrose- Things are really coming together! Stay tuned for more shortly from the committee. It’s shaping up to be an incredible run this year.
- New Business
  - Dr. Trogan- Announces Developing Effective Research Assignment guidelines panel
  - Dr. Ortolano- Announces Community of Practice in Instructional Technology TLC meeting this upcoming Monday!
  - Dr. Ortolano- Announces a reading and book signing by Poet Dan Albergotti, who will be visiting as part of his tour for the Florida Literary Arts Coalition (the event is being co-sponsored by FSW Writes).

*Notes prepared by Dr. Scott Ortolano*

