Department of English

Meeting Minutes

1/20/12

In attendance:  Furman, Barrios, Dalleo, Ulin, McGuirk, Berlatsky, Bucak, Mason, Hagood, Blakemore, Murtaugh, Galin, Martin, Ferguson, Stockard, Jasin, Adams, Schmitt, Hahn, Marzelli, Garcia-Criscoulo, McKay, Dagbovie, Hinshaw, Scroggins, Buckton, Faraci, Bradford

1. Furman reported on successful “Off the Page” reading by Scroggins—approx. 75 people in attendance.  Also a successful brown bag talk by Galin at midday.

2. Furman reported that the PhD program has been approved without much ado (though it is not yet rendered official) by the Faculty Senate.

3. Furman reported on his attendance at the “Making Waves” team leadership meeting, which included a SACS presentation by the president and provost.  Their remarks made it clear that the credentialing of faculty is under particular emphasis, as is assessment.  There was acknowledgement that the current online module for assessment is inadequate and it is being itself reassessed.  The Department is being charged with (re)creating its own assessment plan, and Furman sees this as an opportunity to make assessment useful to our programs.  See discussion below.  He also reported that the administration made clear they are interested in seeing FAU become a Research I institution, though faculty pointed out it is unclear exactly how the administration will support that effort.

4. Furman updated the department on the “Writing for Management” situation.  Previously due to a need to demonstrate a 2.5% permanent budget cut across the college (this is more than $600,000) the dean’s office had raised the possibility of the College of Business either funding or taking over the “Writing for Management” courses which are largely filled by College of Business students.  This would make for a more than $300,000 cut, but would involve the loss of nine instructor lines from our department.  Now it has been decided that the College of Business will indeed take over the course.  They have offered to hire our instructors for at least the next year, and so three instructors will move over to the College of Business next semester (six other instructor lines were or will be empty already by that time).  In support of this idea, it was expressed that this could be an opportunity to create our own courses and possibly a certificate in Professional Writing.  Concerns raised included the possible consequences of the removal of what is a writing course from our Department.

5. Reminder: 3rd year Review portfolios for McKay, Ulin and Schmitt are in Rebecca’s office, as well as on Dropbox. Tenured faculty will meet to discuss:  Friday, Feb 3, 3-5, CU 321

6. Reminder: Annual Faculty Reports–Due Tuesday, Feb 28th.  Faculty should report on the 2011-2012 academic year, with the additional inclusion of the Spring 2011 SPOTS.

7.  Reminder: Christina Davis Poetry Reading, Thurs. Feb. 2, 3:30 pm, BOT room (AD 305) and Rafe’s book launch, Caribbean Literature and the Public Sphere, at Books and Books in Coral Gables on January 28th at 7 pm.

8.  The department has a research assistant–Erin Hobbe ([ehobbie@fau.edu](mailto:ehobbie@fau.edu)) –this semester.

9. Creative Writing: Not only is Christina Davis reading on Feb 2, but she is meeting with MFA students separately in the afternoon on Feb 1.  The MFA has received approximately 30 new applications (by our new Jan 15 deadline).  And for the first time is running two Community Writing Workshops (one in nonfiction and one in fiction) taught by our MFAs.  Please promote as the MFA can’t afford to advertise the classes in the newspaper.  If you would like a flyer, contact Papatya.

10. Assessment: Stockard reported that those in charge of assessment would like use to revamp our current system of evaluating one outcome when assessing our courses.  Instead our one outcome can be split into three subsets, which Emily will do.  In addition, we were advised to come up with small measurable aims in improving our Department.  After some discussion it was agreed one valuable aim would be to improve students’ ability to incorporate quotes into their own thesis-driven papers.  Emily will add this as a fourth outcome to be assessed when lit papers are compared later this year.  The point was raised that if we are to assess students on this ability, we should add the requirement to our assignment prompts.

11.  The University is now floating the idea that post-tenure profs can choose to have heavier teaching assignments if they would prefer not to be evaluated on their research production.