

MINUTES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

February 13, 1981

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m., Joseph Moldenhauer presiding.

Mr. Moldenhauer introduced new members of the English Department faculty and staff. Alain Blayac is a Visiting Lecturer from the Université Paul Valéry in Montpellier, France. Jane Novak is a Visiting Associate Professor from the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. Bernard Richards of Brasenose College in Oxford is a Visiting Professor this semester.

New members of the Spring 1981 temporary faculty include Gillian Adams, Peter Fallon, William Hussey, Mary Jo Roberts, Susan Wells, and Darryl Wimberley. The English Department features four new Assistant Instructors this semester: John Crisp, Joyce Ice, Ann Levin, and Tayoba Ngenge.

Joseph Kruppa reported on Spring 1981 registration. The Department is currently offering 452 sections (excluding cross-listed courses). The Department faced serious staffing problems this semester: the Department had neither the personnel nor the funds to staff all of the courses originally scheduled. On the Thursday before classes began, 23 sections were cancelled; during the first week of classes numerous sections of 10-15 students were cancelled or consolidated with other sections. One result of this action is that classes are filled to enrollment limits (and in some cases beyond the maximum). Another result is particularly frightening for the English Department: as in Fall 1980 some students were turned away from sections of E310, E314K, and E317. Mr. Kruppa predicted that a "backlog" of students who need to take these courses and who have been delayed for a semester is going to create serious problems in Fall 1981; the increased freshman enrollment during 1980-81 is going to exacerbate the problem as these students begin to demand sophomore-level courses next fall. Mr. Moldenhauer assured the faculty that the departmental administration is doing everything it can to anticipate demand for its course offering and to staff its courses in an adequate and timely fashion, but when demand for courses is "unpredictable" and when appointment of temporary personnel is contingent upon actual registration figures, there is little the Department can do to control the situation. He believed that relief must eventually come from two inter-related administrative controls: admissions restraints and mandatory preregistration with fee deposit.

Mr. Moldenhauer summarized junior recruitment to date for the 1980-81 year. In early December the Recruitment Committee (Norman Farmer, Bernth Lindfors, John Ruszkiewicz, and Elizabeth Harris) gave

the Executive Committee a list of 19 candidates for Assistant Professor positions. The Executive Committee studied the dossiers and interviewed 17 of these candidates at the MLA Convention in Houston. (One candidate was out of the country but known to the EC; by prior agreement an interview was forgone. Another candidate was an Austin resident and was interviewed in Austin after the MLA.) The Executive Committee is pleased to announce that the following individuals have accepted offers of appointment to tenure-track Assistant Professor positions:

Peter LaSalle, creative writing, currently a Visiting Assistant Professor

Edward L. Smith, a language and linguistics specialist at the University of Michigan

William Worthen, a scholar of dramatic theory at Princeton University

Mary Louise Zanoni, a Medievalist and Chaucerian from Cornell University

Additional junior appointments are being considered by the Executive Committee.*

In addition to this very successful junior recruitment, the Executive Committee has extended an offer to Rolando Hinojosa Smith of the University of Minnesota (see English Department Minutes of October 24, 1980); he has accepted and will join the Department as a Professor in Fall 1981. Mr. Hinojosa Smith is a specialist in Chicano literature.

Mr. Moldenhauer briefly discussed the budget of the Department for the 1981-82 year. Budget instructions were delivered to the Department on February 4 after the Executive Committee had completed its annual review of faculty. The EC began work on the budget immediately; work on the budget has been completed, and it is now being typed. Faculty members should soon receive letters from the Chairman explaining the Department's recommendations for individual salary increases for the coming year.

*Since the meeting of February 13, two other individuals have accepted offers as tenure-track Assistant Professors: Janis Forman, a composition specialist, Ph.D., Rutgers University, with teaching experience at San Jose State and Goucher; and Jane Marcus, 19th-century, modernist and feminist, Ph.D., Northwestern University, who has teaching experience at SUNY-Stony Brook and Illinois-Chicago Circle.

James Kinneavy reported on progress of the English Requirements Plan approved by the Department last spring. The Plan, which proposes a single freshman composition course, a sophomore literature course, and a junior-level advanced writing course, has been given a friendly reception from the Faculty Senate; it will go to the University Council some time this spring.* (Although the Vick Committee on General Education Requirements incorporates some of the proposals of the Department's plan, the English Requirements Plan is legislatively unrelated to the Vick Committee report.) If the University Council approves the plan, it will go to the General Faculty. The Plan will then go to the President, then the Regents, and finally the Coordinating Board. The earliest date of implementation would be September 1982. Although Mr. Kinneavy believes the plan will enjoy support from the University community, he encouraged faculty members to attend the University Council meeting and to voice their support of the plan.

Mr. Moldenhauer discussed departmental governance. After the Department had approved the EC Constitution in December, the Department was notified of changes in the Handbook of Operating Procedures which restricts voting rights by rank in Executive Committees and extended Budget Councils. These changes permit only the full Professor members of the EC participation in final votes on salary, promotion and termination questions involving department members of every rank. The Associate Professor members of the EC participate in final votes on salary, promotion and termination questions involving only Assistant Professor and Instructor members of the Department. Assistant Professor members of the EC vote only on Instructor salaries, promotions and terminations. Instructor members of the EC (if any) do not have voting privileges in salary, promotion and termination matters.

The Executive Committee met in early January to consider plans to implement the new regulations. The EC decided that all previous votes on rankings would retroactively be declared straw votes, that all forthcoming votes on rankings would be straw votes, and that in the votes on final salary recommendations, the franchise restrictions would be strictly observed. In response to a question, Mr. Moldenhauer could recall no instance where the straw vote on merit rating taken by the entire EC differed in effect from the salary recommendation vote according to the HOP restrictions. He expected that future Executive Committees would continue acting in the responsible, conscientious manner exhibited by the present EC.

*The University Council will begin debate on the plan at its April 20th meeting.

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Mr. Moldenhauer reported that he had not yet received the Dean's response to the revised EC Constitution approved by the Department in early December.

There was discussion of matters relating to Buildings and Grounds and Utilities. Jerome Bump wondered when the English Department faculty could expect to receive telephones in their offices. Mr. Moldenhauer replied that he had received a report on the telephone situation and possible alternative systems in September; the report had been prepared by Archie Green and Charles Rossman. Mr. Moldenhauer had been busy with other matters in the fall (staffing, recruitment, and governance, for instance) and had not considered the matter thoroughly. The telephone situation in the Department is deplorable, he conceded, and he promised to try to alleviate the situation as soon as possible. Mr. Moldenhauer asked the Department's patience in this matter.

Another matter of some urgency to the Department, Mr. Moldenhauer said, was office space. In January 1981 the Department lost office space in Sutton Hall, and in September 1981 the Department will lose an additional 43 offices in Robert Lee Hall. Mr. Moldenhauer didn't know where or when new office space would be found; faculty in the English Department are "doubling up" by sharing office space even now. He warned that this will be a major problem in the English Department next fall, and he invited suggestions from the faculty on ways to alleviate the problem.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.