

Freshman English Policy Committee

April 12, 1978

Parlin 8B, 11:00-12:30

Members present: Kinneavy, Trimble, Cameron, Haney, Henry, Ruszkiewicz,
Saldivar, Wainwright, Creel

AGENDA: (starred items deferred)

Approval of minutes

Committee reports

* Course evaluation

Variant courses

Textbook

Old business

* Calendar committee

TAC letter revision

New business

Counseling program

Personnel for 1978-79

* M&E report on the ECT

1) The minutes of the March 13 meeting were approved as revised and corrected. The minutes of the meeting of April 5 were approved as corrected.

2) Saldivar read a preliminary statement on the evaluation of variant courses; he plans for it to be a brief, specific evaluation procedure. A discussion followed about the use of the standard course/teacher evaluations, which are published only after the beginning of the new semester. Saldivar suggested that since only a few courses would be affected, we could probably get an early report on the classes we might need. There was also some discussion of whether we should set up procedures for experimental and control sections for each variant taught, but no conclusion was reached.

3) The textbook committee report began with a discussion of the handbook. Trimble gave what he called a maverick response; he finds the Leggett and the Corder books to be poor choices. He ranked the books in the following order: Elsbree, Corder, Leggett. He moved that we postpone final selection of handbooks until next week's meeting so that everyone can take another look at them. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee members reviewed rhetorics for E306. Cameron began the review by saying that there is no rhetoric which is ideal for our syllabus; each one under consideration has its own, peculiar, drawbacks. As a result, the text committee has decided to let the general committee discuss the books without a formal recommendation. Ruszkiewicz reported that D'Angelo covers the modes well, but has nothing on self-expression, persuasion, ^{or} induction/deduction (except for a few pages on development of idea in the research paper chapter). The chapter on paradigmatic structures is good, but difficult. The book has drawbacks for us because of its lack of consideration of audience, context, and aim. Kinneavy noted that it is a modes book, basically suited for a course in expository writing. Wainwright reviewed the Adelstein & Pival WRITING COMMITMENT. It has an extensive section on expression, a chapter on persuasion followed by a separate chapter on induction/deduction, excellent coverage of classification and description. It is weak on narration ^{and} does not cover exploration or evaluation at all. It covers sentence and paragraph development within its discussion of

Freshman English Policy Committee Meeting, April 12, 1978, page 2.

the aims. Wainwright also noted that Winterowd's book is the best available on scientific writing, though it is weak in many other areas. Kinneavy pointed out that it had proved very unpopular here. Cameron reviewed the Ebbitt and Ebbitt WRITER'S GUIDE. It begins with a discussion of audience and purpose, covers all the aims in discreet sections except for expression (which it omits), and covers each of the modes in one or more discreet sections except for evaluation, which it covers only in a section on "close reading of a text." Cameron said he thought the sentence chapter was especially good. Cameron mentioned that the Tibbetts and Tibbetts book STRATEGIES OF RHETORIC is still in consideration, even though it is in the last year of its cycle, because it has worked in the course and is already written into the present syllabus.

The committee urged all FEPC members to look over the books during the next week so that we can discuss them and take a final vote at the next meeting.

3) Cameron moved that Item 1,D in the draft of our letter to the TAC on TA Probation Policy be omitted from the final draft. He said that the item suggested that all departmental committees could only recommend policy to the executive committee, not make policy, themselves. This suggestion is, in fact, not true. The motion passed without opposition.

4) Kinneavy noted that, according to Dean Werbow, there will be no counseling program in the English Department next year on ~~either~~ the Freshman or ~~Sophomore~~ levels.

5) Cameron urged the committee to begin selection of an Assistant Director for next year so that the designee can be announced before the AGSE elections.