

Things I want in/from the Rhetoric Division

A strong sense of collegiality and shared intellectual and creative effort

Creativity

Learning

Recognition: Promotion, salary, respect; a sense that my work matters to the larger community

Participative management of the Rhetoric Division, with the Executive Committee (or whatever it's called) participating with the Director in decisions about matters of curriculum and pedagogy as well as traditional responsibilities such as recruitment, promotion and salary.

Clear definition of criteria by which success or failure of the Division will be measured, with a timetable for evaluation; provision for comprehensive internal and external review after a specified period

Regular liaison with other departments and divisions, both within Liberal Arts and in other Colleges, esp those which have in the past expressed active concern with the content of E 306 and other writing courses

Phased construction, over the next 4-5 years, of networked computer classrooms to enable teaching of 90-95% of 306 sections, plus 50% of 309s and upper division courses

Financial and human resources to support an active WAC program, including training of faculty, TAs and AIs in other departments

Construction of a Writing Center to provide walk-in writing assistance to students in any University course

Policy against having more than 10% of lower division writing courses taught by temporary, non-tenure track faculty

Commitment to abide by English Department Graduate Program decisions regarding admission and support of candidates to the Ph.D. program

Assurances of support for both the Rhetoric Division and the English Department: support both material and moral. I want a moratorium on public decanal criticism of the English Department, even if-- especially if-- the Department expresses continuing reluctance to cooperate in setting up the Rhetoric Division. I want, instead, the Dean's office clearly to articulate why creating this division is in its view beneficial to the English Department, and, if it can't do that, then an articulation of why a diminishing of the English Dept serves the best interests of the University and its constituents, including students, faculty in other departments, and citizens of Texas. I would like to hear an articulation of why that route is preferable, in the long run, to an increase in departmental budgets for M&O, travel, and classified staff-- increases which could conceivably make it possible for departmental faculty to do their jobs better and more willingly.