

Notes on 17 August Departmental Meeting:

Joe announced that because there is now litigation relating to April 16, 2007, those whose hard-drives were imaged because of the incident should know that those images have been accessed. To access copies of what has been opened for examination, contact University Council at 231-6293.

Paul Metz, who will be our Library Liason temporarily, spoke with us about new things in the library and urged us to contact him with library needs. He will send an email with most of the information he mentioned today.

After the Writing Center moves out of 340, the space will be re-purposed for instruction.

Hiring plans: we asked for positions in children's literature, linguistics, and digital rhetoric. We have been approved for Digital Rhetoric, and Joe will be setting up a search committee. If you are interested in being part of the search committee, email Joe. There are new guidelines for the composition of the search committees that Joe is waiting for, but we already know that there is now a 1.5 hour course required of anyone involved in the search, including dining companions and chauffeurs to the airport. Joe is looking into having the course presented in the department for all.

Stephanie Snider will be leaving us, and her last day is Friday, 26 September. We were happy to applaud her for her work with us.

Jane Wemhoener, three international initiatives

- Conference: Internationalizing the Curriculum: Finding the World in English, Mar 28-31 at Skelton Inn. Goals: to build collaboration among departments of English in this commonwealth and to bring international communication agencies together. Publications will be ongoing from the work of the conference.
 - Areas of interest/call for participation will go out in about a week:
 - Successful vehicles for faculty development (success means that it results in internationalizing the curriculum)
 - Best practices in classrooms
 - How campuses use international practices
 - Assessment methods
- Tanzania Writing Project: Five-year effort funded through Duke University for instruction in writing English for students at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center. Planning has already begun with the first-year's instructor cohort. If you are interested in finding out more and/or joining the project in its second year as the number of students doubles, please contact Jane.
- London Calling 2012: four weeks in summer, interdisciplinary. Please encourage student interest.

The Thirty-Hour Issue: SCHEV ruling Monday: the 25% of a student's hours that must be in common applies only to courses not in the CLE, not to the total 120 hours to graduate.

Therefore, we are already in compliance. The proposed checklist changes to comply with the earlier concept of the rule never became real. No further action need be taken on this issue.

Travel funds: This year, we will have the same travel funds as has been the norm: Professors \$1750, Instructors \$700.

Online teaching in summer: We are urged to teach more courses online for summer. If you have not taught online, contact Joe so he can arrange IDDL training and certification for online teaching.

Shanks 352 and 242: Carolyn applied for an opportunity to have Shanks 352 remodeled without cost to us. The pillar has been slimmed down and new modular furniture moved in. Shanks 242 will have new chairs that should make the room a little less crowded.

Governance:

Meetings: Our governance document requires 3 meetings per term—Joe suggests changing it to require one mandated meeting per term with others called as needed by the chair or a body of faculty. After brief discussion, Joe noted that the Advisory Committee can draft language and a ballot will ensue.

Personnel Committee: Committees are elected and begin their terms in April. However, for Personnel, there is often not time to find referees for tenure review. Joe suggests that the committee begin its term in January. Discussion seconded the problems of finding referees when starting so late, questioned whether there was a need to have the same committee members follow the whole process through, and concerns that having a new committee take over partway through could make confidentiality issues difficult.

Reducing departmental work: Joe is actively looking for ways to reduce the amount of departmental service. He asks for suggestions, and pleads with committee chairs to meet only when necessary and work expeditiously when they do meet.

Collaboration: Joe played a video on changing paradigms in education after which Bill Sanders, Director of Technology in the Arts at Virginia Tech, described efforts to expand transdisciplinary teaching and research at Virginia Tech and explained how he can help interested faculty find collaborators.

Communications and social media: Jen Mooney outlined plans to change to one issue per year for the Feast of Words and then move to online publication exclusively. She then presented plans for a departmental Facebook page and Twitter Account and will proceed with their development. Jen also outlined the pros and cons of setting up a departmental blog. This would take active and regular participation from the faculty and there was little enthusiasm to proceed in this direction.

Compiled by Cheryl Ruggiero and Joe Eska