

Minutes of the English Department Meeting, Shanks 370, November 4.

Present: Allnutt, Bean, Colaianne, D'Aguiar, Dannenberg, Dubinsky, Ch. Eska, J. Eska, Frost, Gardner, Gibbs, K. Graham, Hausman, Kark, Kinder, Lautenschlager, LeCorre, Martin, Maycock, Mazzolini, Meitner, Metz, Moore, Mosser, Murphy, Pender, Powell, Roy, Ruccolo, Ruggiero, Salaita, Sanders, Skinner, Smith, Sullivan, Swenson, Vollmer, Wemhoener

Absent with notification: Carter-Tod, Chandler, Fowler, Giovanni, P. Graham, Heilker, Neilan, Rude, Saffle

Absent: Anderson, Armstrong, Bliss, Bloomer, Brumberger, Canter, Collier, Combiths, Evia, Falco, Hagedorn, Harvill, Hicok, Kiebuszinska, Knapp, Lawrence, LoMascolo, Mengert, J. Mooney, S. Mooney, Oakey, Oehlschlaeger, Patton, Piersol, Radcliffe, Reisinger, Scallorns, Siegle, Voros, Welch

Eska opened the meeting by presenting the 2010 Sturm Awards to Matthew Vollmer and Katy Powell, explaining that Phi Beta Kappa had been a little late in delivering the commemorative plaques. He reminded the faculty about the conference on Internationalizing the Curriculum to be held in March and then talked briefly about the new Study Abroad course proposal Jane Wemhoener has developed, and Steven Salaita's work on a new World Literature course.

Eska then introduced Guru Ghosh, Associate Vice-President for International Affairs, who spoke on ways that faculty members can individually and collectively make efforts to internationalize the experiences they deliver to students.

He began by stating that that the university needs to conceive of a "better architecture" for international initiatives; that we are behind in language studies and cultural studies programs; we need to give students more experience in the humanities.

The university sends only about 1100 students (1-2% of the total student population) abroad each year, approximately 900 of whom travel under supervision of Tech faculty. He noted that we are short on faculty exchange programs. He also explained that interesting new funding models have been and are being developed, involving corporately-sponsored-educational-immersion programs. These initiatives clearly need to grow by providing incentives for faculty to build new curricula to lead students abroad. We need better funding, he stated, for "strategic interests of individual departments."

Ghosh announced that the Provost is now creating an entirely new International Summer School Initiative. We can expect major changes, including many new opportunities for faculty to become involved with a variety of international projects.

After speaking for about 30 minutes, Ghosh asked for questions and a lively discussion followed. Faculty responded to his comments enthusiastically and offered a number of promising suggestions concerning such matters as interdisciplinary collaborations and cross-departmental curricula, one-year Master's degree programs for international students, and on-line course offerings for an international clientele.

Since the University and the College are going to increase their focus upon internationalization/globalization, and since significant resources will be redirected to meet this goal, the English Department will now set about drafting a plan to address specifics for internationalizing our curriculum in a thoroughgoing manner. Eska will soon call for participation in a Task Force to develop a departmental international plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Colaianne