

SAGE Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

5:00 pm, 1016 Wescoe

Attending: Nate Williams, Katie Egging, Steven Mitschele, Meghan Kuckelman, Amy Sherman, Ann Martinez, Amy Ash, Eric Hood, Heather Bastian, Jana Tigchelaar, Rob Topinka, Keri Behre, Kristen Lillvie

Call to Order, Minutes approved.

Officer Reports.

a. Presidents' Report: a. Presidents' Report: 1) Reminder that GTAC forms are available by all the printers near graduate student offices. We also need a volunteer to represent the English Department in contract negotiations. This may involve negotiation on the GTAC team. Let us know if you're interested. 2) Discussion of a proposal to be sent to the Graduate Committee regarding the policy for reduced teaching load lines. After a short discussion the room expressed concern on the following issues: a) the paragraph describing the responsibility of the GRA to their faculty mentor could be clearer to avoid any confusion, b) regarding eligibility, we agreed that it seems most fair to allow those who would pass their DPR the spring before the reduced load year should be eligible, and since the application process must take place in the fall because scheduling for the following fall happens so early in the spring semester, a recommendation from a professor might be a good way to verify who will pass, c) the room felt strongly in favor of having an application process to ensure transparency. 3) We need a committee of five (four plus Jana) to determine the Mabel S. Fry Award. The nominations of professors are due March 10. Megan K, Amy Ash, Katie Egging, Nate Williams all kindly volunteered. Center for Teaching Excellence teaching award nominations: Keri and Kristen called for suggestions of names to consider. 4) Congratulations to Rob Topinka and DaMaris Hill on their presentations during the KU Graduate Research Competition. Thanks for representing the department well!

b. Secretary's Report. For the Rent-A-Grad Student Fundraiser we didn't have a huge turnout, which we attributed to the economy (we did however have a large number of volunteers—thanks everyone!). There were five requests for six hours total.

c. Treasurer's Report. \$686.96. SAGE Travel Awards: The committee awarded Keri Behre and Kristen Lillvis this year's travel awards. Topinka remarked that it was a very tough decision.

d. FY Liaison Report. No report.

Committee Reports

a. Academics Anonymous. They are still on track. Andrew Kuhn's presentation has been postponed, but they are still planning one presentation for March and one for April.

b. Advisory Committee. Deb Olin Unferth is leaving our department for a position in Connecticut, which will put our MFA fiction students in a bit of a bind. A search for a faculty member to replace her will be second priority (when we begin hiring again after the current freeze) after the search to replace Dr. Monberg in comp/rhet. Also, the department is toying with large lecture classes with TA sections for some of the advanced major courses that are always too full. Dr. Neill will be teaching one next year.

c. FSE Committee. They are currently reviewing textbooks for 101. Bastian encourages you to review the textbooks (and please leave them in the FSE office!). Your feedback is highly valued. The only carry over text is *Scenes of Writing*. Friday, March 6, is the deadline. They have also revised the 102 and 200-level goals, reworked a little to make them more in line with 101. The new ones were used for the norming sessions this spring. Revision was ranked, in the assessment survey of 101, by both students and teachers as one of the least successful components. The committee plans on doing some workshops with revision next year.

d. Graduate Assembly. Sevenker reports: 1) The GPA director position is still open if anyone is still interested in applying for that. It's a paid position, and folks interested can contact the current director (see GPA website for email addys). 2) GPA is seeking volunteers for folks who would be interested in some committee. Specifically, GPA is being allowed to name two grad students to a committee that will be reevaluating the distribution of student fees. If anyone has strong opinions about this distribution, they could contact the director asap to volunteer. 3) There are still two grad seats open on student senate if any one is interested in filling them. 4) SAGE is now able to reapply for money from GPA; there are left over funds, and we could get as much as 250 dollars. 5) Grad Ex is reviewing the performances of the GPA exec board. If we have any comments or complaints, we can send them to Grad ex. 6) If we're concerned about how grad student funds will be distributed for the coming years by the finance committee of student senate, SAGE can send members to the committee meeting in order to gain voting rights, or we can ask our grad director to write a letter to student senate on behalf of our graduate students. The redistribution of funds will likely occur on March 7th, and there is some worry that grad students will be shorted for coming year or two, and so this may be an issue of some urgency.

e. Graduate Committee. Thomas and E. Williams report: The graduate committee will be meeting this Friday to discuss the literature PhD 5-year program and reduced teaching loads.

f. GTAL Committee. Behre is discussing with them the scheduling ins and outs of the GRAships/reduced teaching loads. They are discussing flexible distributions of the reduced-loads (2-0 or 0-2). Also, they are allowing teaching upper level courses for the reduced load (a small victory). Because of the economy (fewer people leaving), they may have to eliminate some part-time lecturers. This is only a possibility—please do not worry too much about this statement.

g. Lecturers/Readers Committee. April 15, 7:00 is the date and time of the Urrea lecture—do take the time to come out and see him.

h. Library Committee. Voice any concerns to materials being eliminated (that Buchsbaum sends us) to Katie Egging.

i. MFA Committee. No report.

j. Professionalization Workshops Committee. No report.

k. Public Face/Alumni Relations. No report.

l. SAGE Advice. No report.

m. Social Committee. We had a Henry's night last Friday, small but fun. They are thinking of having another before spring break. Suggestions for location? Please advise! Rick's? Conroy's Pub? Also, on March 30, at 9 or 10 pm (a Monday) grad recruits will be in town—come represent us! Lastly, Wescoe Mixer: they're trying to put it together, but have had few responses from other exec. members of other depts. They're thinking of April 10 at Louise's. Talk it up to other graduate students.

n. Summer Institutes Committee. Sidonie Smith will be giving summer institute this year, and Lawrence Buell has agreed to give it next year. The institute is scheduled for July. Do remember that you can request a scholarship from Tom Lorenz (all you have to do is email him to ask) to defray the costs of summer tuition.

o. Supplemental Funds Committee. Bastian has been approving what they send her.

p. Webmaster.. Thomas reports: Everything has been updated. SAGE replies that eliminating last names was a lot of work. SAGE thanks you, Susan!!

q. Sustainability Report. No Report.

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Meeting Adjourned.