

SAGE Minutes

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Wescoe 4050

Attending: Jana Tigchelaar, Rob Topinka, Audrey McDonald, Daryl Lynn Dance, Erin Williams, Nathaniel Williams, Meghan Kuckelman, Patrick Phillips, Erin Conley, Paula Prisacaru, Ali Brox, Kari Jackson, Ashley Ortiz, Heather Bastian, Keri Behre, Ann Martinez, Kristen Lillvis

Call to Order, Minutes approved; Brox moved, Kuckelman seconded.

Officer Reports.

a. Presidents' Report: 1) Thanks to anonymous SAGE volunteers for reorganizing lab; please keep it clean, 2) Spring instructor situation (eight part-time lecturers not rehired for the spring, all GTAs still have classes, no late hires for next semester regardless of enrollment), 3) Lillvis and Martinez will be meeting with Joe Harrington Tuesday, October 12: will discuss recruitment strategies (shadowing GTAs for visiting students and sitting in on 802, improving Web sites [both SAGE and English dept.]), questions about GRA positions (requirements, availability, try to aim for consistency).

Lillvis asks if there are any other suggestions. E. Williams suggests Lillvis and Martinez meet with Marta Caminero-Santangelo as well to clarify GRA information; Bastian agrees. Williams wonder how GRA positions are being used as recruitment tools. It is also suggested we look into consistency with faculty advising during the comps and dissertation stage—ensuring all faculty members are familiar and on the same page. Bastian mentions this is esp. pressing considering that the push for the five-year program means many students aren't guaranteed a job despite still being in the program. N. Williams issues a call for clarification in communication about these problems, and suggests that Harrington should be informed of the overlapping nature of these issues.

Lillvis asks that SAGE members email either her or Martinez about any other concerns that may arise before Tuesday's meeting.

b. Secretary's Report. No report.

c. Treasurer's Report. Our account currently holds \$403.46 in the treasury. Topinka calls for ideas from SAGE members for potential speakers or theme days that can be funded by Student Senate. Lillvis asks if it must take place on campus. Topinka is unsure—it just has to be open to all.

d. FY Liaison Report. No report.

Committee Reports

a. Academics Anonymous Conley says that Eric hood is in contact with Misty Schieberle about possibly participating this year.

b. Advisory Committee. N. Williams reports that the Advisroy committee will be working on streamlining the committee, limiting the six voting members down to four, and not requiring ex officio members to attend. SAGE still has representation, and advisory committee meetings will occur on request of the chair. Most of these issues end up in voting committee.

Williams says there are three items on the agenda for next meeting: online classes, role of 802, and new funding opportunities for GRAs.

c. FSE Committee. E. Williams reports that FSE is in the process of changing the name from Freshman-Sophomore English to First- and Second-Year English. They are also hard at work on assessment, reconsidering the outcome statements and goals for 102 and 200-levels. Bastian clarifies that this is primarily changing the language, not the goals themselves.

d. Graduate & Professional Affairs: Topinka reports an opportunity to have coffee with the dean on November 13. They have almost hired a new financial director. Topinka reports that this person is “very qualified” and that “this will be a cakewalk for her.”

e. Graduate Committee: Jackson reports that they will be meeting on Friday (October 9) and will be discussing the issue of three members of a committee signing off on a dissertation three weeks before you can schedule a test. The question that was brought up was “what about the other members?” Phillips also mentions that revision prior to the defense but after the signing-off is a concern. Behre clarifies that this is an issue because they want to have the final version on file, and that the committee wants to read and respond to what the student will be coming to the meeting with. Lillvis says that the main problem might be that the time is cumulative, possibly leading to people being unable to graduate due to waiting to schedule their defense. Behre asks why the second three week period can’t be condensed. Jackson says it may simply be a scheduling issue. Bastian asks if anyone is ever really just showing their committee members their dissertation one time, three weeks before the defense. N. Williams mentions that faculty members might ask for changes at any point during the process. Behre says that revision can be part of any stage in the defense. N. Williams states a desire to have this spelled out: at what point does a student need to cancel and reschedule his or her defense?

Phillips says that Harrington is very interested in revising the curriculum for graduate students, looking for particularly ideas for combined MA/PhD program, time to degree. Jackson mentions that the combined program idea for creative writing hasn’t garnered a lot of interest among faculty. Perhaps if students show an interest it will gain more footing. E. Williams says that such a five-year literature program has already been before the various committees last year. Bastian encourages us to think about changes that will actually happen and make a difference in issues like time to degree—curriculum change

might not be one of them. Phillips mentions that there are also some minor issues they are discussing.

f. GTAL Committee. E. Williams states that GTAL set up a subcommittee for discussing getting out information from FSE to students about the conversion of GTAship to lectureship—perhaps via MAT? That subcommittee is meeting this week.

g. Lecturers/Readers Committee. Hume and Sugimori emailed. Sugimori asked that SAGE members be informed of the next L&R event: American Indian author and critic David Treuer (University of Minnesota) will give the Eberhardt lecture on Thursday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. in Alderson Auditorium.

h. Library Committee: No report

i. MFA Committee No report

j. Professionalization Workshops Committee. Kuckelman says they have their first workshop scheduled and will be announced this weekend. This first workshop will deal with thinking about jobs at community colleges and other non-university settings, and will be held Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 4 p.m in 4033 Wescoe. How can grad students think about jobs outside the university system that still involve teaching? Kuckelman calls for any suggestions for topics or questions that students would like to see covered.

Also, the SAGE Professionalization website is completely out of date; Lillvis instructs Kuckelman to contact Susan Thomas with updated information.

k. Public Face/Alumni Relations: Kuckelman and N. Williams have been meeting with the committee and discussing multiple issues: 1. Trying to find a way to survey alumni. 2. Prof Lim has been thinking about having a booth at homecoming to help get the English Department's face out there 3. News about department alumni who are doing interesting things on the website, such as an "alumni of note" feature on the Web site? Kuckelman wants to see about making all the pictures on the site links to information about the department rather than just images. N Williams calls for students to let them know about alums who might be doing interesting things.

l. SAGE Advice: No report

m. Social Committee. Ortiz mentions they are working on Halloween party which will be held on Halloween. Location TBD.

n. Summer Institutes Committee: Egging emailed. No report.

o. Supplemental Funds Committee: No report submitted.

p. Sustainability Committee: Brox mentions last year's effort on Make a Difference Day. This year it is Saturday, Oct. 24. Last year they did clean-up of a trail at Clinton Lake.

Brox suggests working with Cans for the Community, which is trying to have a new presence at home football games to collect tailgaters' cans. There is a game on Make a Difference Day against Oklahoma that will probably provide a lot of tailgating opportunities. Brox will put together some more information about this.

q. Webmaster's Report: No report submitted.

Old Business. none

New Business. none

Motion to adjourn: Behre moved, Phillips seconded, approved

Meeting Adjourned.