

LOWER DIVISION ENGLISH POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 29

ATTENDING: S. Heinzelman, Henkel, Brodkey, Ruszkiewicz, Twombly, Slatin, Trachsel, Nehring, Piedmont-Marton, and Wieda

ABSENT: Hilfer (exc.)

I. Brodkey called the meeting to order at a little past 4:00 p.m.

II. Brodkey announced that the issue of the day was TA/AI supervision. Please see S. Heinzelman's summary of the major points of the discussion. In general, Brodkey raised the point (and we agreed) that there are serious pedagogical, professional, and yes, even legal implications of the current "system" of evaluating and supervising graduate student instructors. While the point was made that AIs who request extra help with their teaching get it, the general feeling is that those who ask are good enough teachers to be worried about their classroom performance but that many teachers do not even know that there are solutions to some of their teaching problems. The key in strengthening and revising the current supervision system will be in institutionalizing support and advice as well as evaluation of AIs.

The upshot of all this talk was an idea for a post-398T teaching practicum which would allow graduate students who chose to take it to improve their teaching as well as demonstrate for future professional purposes their continued interest in the theory and practice of undergraduate teaching.

III. We adjourned around 5:00 p.m.

Corbett

Gaert

O'Hara