

# **Recommendations for the Proposed Rhetoric and Composition Division**

## **Governance.**

The voting members of the division will be all faculty members who have one-sixth time appointments in the division and all members of the faculty who are currently teaching or who will teach a course in the division from September through August of a given school year. (The figure one-sixth is chosen to enable a faculty member to be a member of the division if he/she teaches one course in the division out of a total of six per year in English and the division.) The voting members of the division will determine curricular matters, make area recommendations for hiring to the Executive Committee, and in general perform the functions usually performed by departments in other academic departments.

The Executive Committee of the Division will be made up of all of the faculty who have appointments of one-sixth time or more in the division. The Executive Committee will hire new faculty, assistant instructors, and teaching assistants; determine salaries and annual salary increments; tenure faculty, and in general perform all of the activities of budget councils or executive committees.

The director of the division will be selected by the Executive Committee and approved by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. The functions of the director will be those usually performed by the chair of a department. He will vote when there is a tie in the executive committee, he will appoint necessary committees, he will run division meetings, etc.

## **Curriculum**

**Courses in General.** The courses handled by the division will be: E 306, E 306Q, E 309K, E 309L, E 309M, E 325M, E 360M, E 367C (when it concerns writing courses), E 379C, (Article Writing, Editing), E 398T (for English AI's and TA's across the university for SWC course preparation).

Undergraduate courses with which the division will cooperate with the English department, in order to maintain a high standard of writing efficiency, will be: E 603A, B (Composition and Reading in World Literature), E 316K and E 316F (which are supposed to have a substantial writing component, although they are not designated as SWC courses in the catalogue), and all courses designated SWC courses. Especially the 316 courses need attention. We should not let this writing course be neglected.

Graduate courses with which the division will cooperate with the English department to ensure the development of a first-class graduate concentration in Rhetoric and Composition are the following: E 387L, 3 387M, and offerings in the following courses when they are concerned with rhetoric and composition: E 388L, E 391L, E 691L, E 393M, E 398R, E 399R, E 699R, E 999R, E 399W, E 699W, and E 999W.

**Courses--Some Details.**

Division Courses. E 306. The argumentation emphasis should continue; it seems to be working well. Very little criticism from the AI's, the faculty, or anyone else.

E 309K. It has developed into a writing about literature, with three subtopics: American literature and culture, history and culture, and literary genres.

E 309L. The LDEPC last year considered a move to writing about sciences, other humanities, fine arts, and business--a mirror image of E 346K, at the undergraduate level. This parallels John's suggestion of last week.

E 309M. Has developed into the computer lab course.

E 309 courses generally: much used for SWC courses for students from other departments. I don't believe that we should take in as many AI's as we currently are if the dropout rate continues. This should be examined. If it continues, we should cut the number of AI's and the number of 309 courses offered. This is probably the biggest soft spot in the offerings.

E 325M. No particular agenda for this. Seems to be doing OK.

E 360M. Same as previous remark. Should generally be taught by rhetoric people.

We need some undergraduate rhetoric courses. I agree with John.

E 398TA. Eventually we should set up a special course to prepare TA's in other departments for their roles in SWC courses, so that at least one course in each department is taught with TA support. In my opinion, the two course SWC requirement is probably too much of an expectation. At least one course, though, should be as rigorous as possible. And each department and college should take on its fair share of this responsibility.

Division and English Undergraduate and Graduate Courses. Possibly set up two special shared committees with English to keep an eye on these courses.

## **Other Remarks**

Like John Slatin and John Ruskiewicz, I believe that collegiality is extremely important.

I also believe that stability is almost as important. The program has been unstable for the last six or seven years. This is especially true of E 306 and E 309 and of the accompanying E 398T. The disruption occasioned by the creation of the division contributes to this instability, and, for this reason, among others, should be as painless and uneventful as possible. As it is, The extension of the computer networking system to E 306 generally and to other courses and the restoration of some kind of a writing laboratory for E 306 will already take a good deal of attention.

The lack of stability is also true of the mentoring program, which has been a problem for a good number of years also. The AI mentoring initiated this year should be kept under supervision and added to the faculty mentoring.

Since AI's will teach the vast majority of the courses in the division, there ought to be some provision for their voices to be heard both in the division and on the Executive Committee.