

Freshman English Policy Committee Meeting

November 18, 1977

Calhoun 323, 3:00-4:00

Members present: Kinneavy, Trimble, Saldivar, Haney, Cameron,
Henry, Creel, Wainwright

Guests present: Firsch, Rebhorn, Barnes, Rebhorn, Walker, Banks

Agenda: (starred items deferred)

Approval of minutes

Standing committee reports

Textbook

* Grade inflation

* Proposed FEPC Calendar

Timberg request for funds

Apprentice program

1. As our guests were present to discuss the Apprentice Program, the regular order of business was suspended, and the last item on was discussed first. Dr. Kinneavy welcomed the guests and reviewed the memo (containing portions of recent FEPC meeting minutes relating to the Apprentice Program) which was distributed to all earlier in the week. A lengthy discussion followed (notes on this exchange are available); a summary of major positions taken appears below.

Rebhorn asked a number of questions to clarify the present purposes for the AT/ST program, asking the FEPC to consider the possibility of establishing a year-long apprentice program in which the Apprentices did no actual teaching, but rather observed and assisted regular faculty members or new instructors. Frisch observed, along those lines, that such an apprentice program could help to make UT attractive, since we don't give many fellowships. The other comments addressed matters that the FEPC had discussed before. Kinneavy noted early that the FEPC subcommittee on the apprentice program had not finished drafting its recommendations to the whole committee. In conclusion, however, Rebhorn suggested that a joint FEPC/TAC committee work up a proposal on a year-long apprenticeship program, but no immediate action was taken on the suggestion.

2. Cameron presented the textbook subcommittee recommendations for texts for the variant Freshman courses for the spring. All recommendations were accepted (see Textbook subcommittee report, appended).

3. The minutes of the October 21 meeting were approved as distributed.

4. Trimble distributed a tentative calendar for the FEPC which notes important dates. He asked members for additions and/or corrections, especially those which concern the activities of the subcommittees. The calendar will be established by the end of the semester, so members were urged to review the tentative plans carefully.

FEPC Meeting, November 18, 1977, page 2.

5. Buddy Timberg's request for \$100 to publish his class journal was denied after a copy of the journal, published by his last year's 308PC class, was passed around. There was some discussion of giving Timberg less money, but no motion to that effect was made.

6. Trimble read the grade inflation statement to the committee (see handout distributed earlier in the semester.) and noted that grade inflation was a problem at all levels, from elementary school to graduate school. The committee seemed to feel that part of the problem of grade inflation among freshman English classes at UT is caused by teacher evaluations. Kinneavy noted that the removal of the percentile rankings from the evaluations would help solve the problems. A statement on grade inflation would help too, since the teachers could use it as justification for giving lower grades. There was considerable objection to grading on a curve, however, and Cameron suggested that some specific statements of objectives and quality standards would be more useful and flexible. Haney said that there should also be a statement on what final grades mean.

To: FEPC Members
From: Textbook Selection Sub-committee
Date: November 18, 1977
Subject: Variant Text Proposals

English 306

Martha Economopoulou--Strategies of Rhetoric, Tibbetts & Tibbetts
Celia Merrill--An Inquiry into the Human Prospect, Heilbroner
Chromosomes and Genes, Koller
North from Mexico, McWilliams
The Politics of Lying, Wise
Beyond Freedom & Dignity, Skinner
Black Holes, Quasars & the Universe, Shipman
Harbrace College Handbook, Hodges & Whitten
Process and Thought in Composition, D'Angelo
Rhetorical Considerations, Brent & Lutz

English 307

Richard Hart--Harbrace College Handbook, Hodges & Whitten
Quartet/Stories, Simonson, ed.

English 308 pop culture

Jackie Byars--Age of Communication, Lutz
Harbrace College Handbook, Hodges & Whitten

English 308 pc special

Randy Conner--The Virginian, Owen
Black Boy, Wright
The Illustrated Man or Fahrenheit 451, Pirsig
The Godfather, Puzo
Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, Pirsig
Rubyfruit Jungle, Brown

English 308--variants

Tom Cameron--The Participating Reader, Wittig et al.
The Writer's Guide and Index to English, Ebbitt

Carol Edkins--Autobiography: A Reader for Writers, Lyons
The Writing Commitment, Adelstein & Pival

Misc.

Susann Dorman--Harbrace College Handbook, Hodges & Whitten