

Freshman English Policy Committee Meeting

April 19, 1978

Parlin 8B, 11:00-12:00

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

AGENDA: (Starred items deferred)

- Approval of minutes
- Committee reports
- Course evaluation
- Textbook
- Variant courses
- Old business
- * Calendar committee
- Personnel for 1978-79
- * M & E Report on the ECT

1) The minutes of the April 12 meeting were approved as corrected.

2) In answer to a question about the agenda from Kinneavy, Cameron noted that the course evaluation committee was on the agenda because, as the report on the three major courses had not yet been adopted as FEPC policy, and the textbook committee was still having to establish the criteria on which to base their recommendations for books for next year. Kinneavy then moved to accept the report prior to actual FEPC approval. The motion passed without opposition.

3) Saldivar moved the approval of Jana Wainwright's proposal for a 308 variant course on technical writing. He said the variant course committee heartily approved the proposal, especially since it moves in the direction of the revisions for 308 which we have been discussing informally and since it forms a good base for 317. The motion passed unanimously.

He reported that M&E cannot release standard teacher/course evaluation information prior to the end of the semester, so we cannot depend on the existing system in our end-of-semester evaluation of variant courses. They will, however, help us prepare and score a questionnaire which we develop especially for that purpose. Kinneavy suggested we design such an instrument and test it during the FERA project. Trimble asked if the exact end of the semester were not soon enough for the reports, anyway; if so, we could probably get M&E to release the information to us then. Saldivar replied that since there could be only a few classes involved each semester anyway we might try to get M&E to separate out those classes and give us the results before the next semester begins. He will check on that possibility and report back.

Kinneavy noted that he has arranged with M&E to do a comparison between earlier and later courses to discern the effect of the counseling program on 306 and 308, the effect of the combination of counseling and substantial 398T courses on 306 and 308, and the effect of Joan Allaire's work. M&E will compare data from course/teacher evaluations already on file.

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4) The textbook committee reported on its recommendations for texts for all Freshman courses for the fall semester, 1978:

306 (all present texts to be replaced)

rhetoric--Adelstein and Pival, THE WRITING COMMITMENT, HBJ, 1976.
reader----Decker, PATTERNS OF EXPOSITION, Little, Brown, 1978.

307 (all present texts to be retained)

rhetoric--Irmischer, THE HOLT GUIDE TO ENGLISH, Holt, 1976.

308 (reader to be retained; Beardsley to be dropped)

rhetoric--Hairston, A CONTEMPORARY RHETORIC, HMC., 1978.

In the discussion that followed, Cameron questioned whether the Adelstein and Pival could be used properly and adequately within the framework of our syllabus. He said he was afraid that the book was too strong in its internal organization for us to manipulate. He recommended that, in its place, we adopt THE WRITER'S GUIDE by Ebbitt and Ebbitt because its sections are independent of each other and can be taken up in whatever order the teacher desires. There was some discussion about price: it was noted that the Adelstein new costs about \$12, but that most students could get \$9 used copies; the WRITER'S GUIDE, split out in paperback from the INDEX, would be priced around \$6. After some further discussion, the recommended package was accepted unanimously.

After brief discussion, a final vote was taken on the handbook to be used in all freshman courses. The tally follows:

Leggett, et al., THE PRENTICE-HALL HANDBOOK FOR WRITERS	1
Corder, HANDBOOK OF CURRENT ENGLISH, SF	4
Elabree, et al., THE HEATH HANDBOOK OF COMPOSITION	2.

The Corder handbook was thus adopted.

Jim Creel asked that the subcommittee consider recommending a dictionary for use in Freshman courses. He supports the Webster's NEW WORLD DICTIONARY. Others suggested that the AMERICAN HERITAGE would be the best for college freshmen. Kinneavy said he leaned toward the use of multiple dictionaries in the courses. He remarked that if we choose no single one, students will have no reason to think that somewhere there is a "great god, Lingua" who has all the answers--since dictionaries inevitably disagree because of their different editorial stances. Kinneavy suggested that we ask James Sledd and Gary Underwood to collaborate on brief paragraph discussions of the major college dictionaries. Creel agreed to ask them to do the descriptions; he will report back to the committee.

5) Since Creel is running for the position of Assistant Director for next year, he will not sit on the personnel committee who reviews applications. Lynn Henry will take his place as TA member.