

FRESHMAN ENGLISH POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 10, 1985

Attending: Ruszkiewicz, Bertelsen, Byerman,
Cherry, Daniell, Holt

Absent: Frost

- I. Call to order at 1:04 p.m.

- II. Discussion of the Dean's directive concerning removal of graduate students from the FEPC.

Ruszkiewicz read the pertinent paragraph from the directive; announced that he had received permission from Sutherland to discuss this matter with Dean King.

Major issues discussed by the FEPC:

- A. Whether the Dean intended that graduate students be removed from the committee entirely or remain on the committee without voting privileges
- B. Whether graduate students' past performance on the FEPC was taken into consideration before this decision was made
- C. Whether the distinction between "graduate students" and assistant instructors" should be an issue here

It was noted that graduate students this semester teach 100% of the E 306 courses.

Ruszkiewicz reiterated his intention to discuss this matter with Dean King.

- III. Minutes for the April 3 meeting were reviewed. Daniell moved to accept them. Bertelsen seconded the motion, and it was carried by the committee.

IV. Textbook selection: Handbooks (Daniell)

Bertelsen questioned the need for both a handbook and a rhetoric. Ruskiewicz responded that the choice of a separate handbook was an FEPC policy established several years ago and based on a faculty vote. Bertelsen noted that next year's FEPC may want to consider changing that policy.

Ruskiewicz opted to leave the room during the discussion of specific handbooks.

Daniell distributed a handout summarizing the features of 14 handbooks, then expressed her personal recommendations at the request of Holt and Byerman.

- A. Harbrace - described as the best "bad" handbook; notable for its clarity, its accessibility, its "deadly neutral" language, and its oversimplicity.
- B. Corder & Ruskiewicz - described as the "best"; notable for its sections on rhetoric (the most up-to-date of all she reviewed), on writing about literature, on plagiarism, and on language attitudes (including the she/he pronoun problem).
- C. Gefvert - described as the "next best"; notable for its use of Burke's pentad, its treatment of the paragraph, its section on language attitudes (including Standard English), its distinction between speech and writing, and its discussion of the comma.

Ruskiewicz returned.

Holt asked which book is least intimidating to students. Daniell answered Corder/Ruskiewicz and Kolln.

Cherry asked whether the committee should consider the quality of the rhetoric section, given the committee's choice of a separate rhetoric. Bertelsen noted as an aside that Humanities 303 has a need for a good rhetoric section.

Daniell made the following comments:

- A. Pejoratives are used with non-Standard English in the Prentice-Hall text.
- B. Hacker and McGraw-Hill have a large number of examples of non-Standard English, but they are generally of Black English and sometimes inaccurate.
- C. The American College Handbook is excellent, but for students older than those at UT.

- D. Corbett succeeds at brevity but assumes too much and prescribes.
- E. Borzoi is "not a bad book," although it has no exercises; notable for its treatment of parallelism.
- F. Kolln isn't organized; doesn't have new MLA.

Ruszkiewicz and Daniell agreed that handbooks can be divided into two categories: (1) brief, but prescriptive and (2) comprehensive.

Daniell recommended Harbrace as the best choice for a brief book.

Bertelsen suggested that the Corder/Ruszkiewicz and the Gefvert are emerging as prospective candidates. They are the only two, for example, that include all three documentation styles (old MLA, new MLA, and APA).

Byerman recommended that the committee tentatively accept the Corder/Ruszkiewicz and the Gefvert handbooks.

There were nods all around (with the exception of Ruszkiewicz, who was immobile).

Bertelsen suggested that Borzoi be added to the tentative list. There was general informal agreement.

Ruszkiewicz asked for and received the members' permission to be contacted (individually) by book sales representatives during the next couple of weeks.

- V. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.