

MINUTES OF THE SENATE
Department of English

11 March 1983

3:00 - 4:55 p.m.

Present: Moldenhauer (Chair); Bertelsen, Bowden, Cable, Duncan, Faigley, Friedman, Ghose, Goldbarth, Kruppa, Lesser, Megaw, Renwick, Ruszkiewicz, Sipiora, Skaggs, Stott, S. Wevill, Whitbread. Absent: Duban, Farrell, Hinojosa, Jolliffe, Lidoff.

The Minutes of the 25 February 1983 Senate meeting were tentatively approved with one correction: "Whitbread" should be included in the names of those members present.

The Chair announced that the Governance Committee planned to begin working on possible revisions to the Department of English Governance Document this semester; revisions may be necessary to clarify ambiguities in the Document as it is now written. Dr. Moldenhauer said that Dr. Max Westbrook (Chair of the Governance Committee) expected to report to the Senate by the end of the semester.

The Chair reported that he had recently issued invitations to 14 members of the English Department faculty to serve on the Lecturer Study-Group. These individuals reflected various interests and concerns in the Department in accordance with the motion passed at the 25 February 1983 Senate meeting. An announcement of the committee's formation will be sent to department members after Dr. Moldenhauer has received responses from the individuals involved.

Additional agenda items had been submitted to the Chair after the "tentative" agenda was distributed 4 March 1983. After a brief discussion of the priority of the agenda items, Dr. Edwin Bowden moved, Dr. Neill Megaw seconded, that discussion follow this order: Renaissance interest group motion (Ruszkiewicz), Lecturer proposal (S. Wevill), Associate Professor recruitment (Moldenhauer). The motion was approved.

Dr. John Ruszkiewicz made the following motion:

Be it resolved that as Professor Emeritus Alexander Sackton has said that he would like to explore the possibility of donating his professional library to the Department as the nucleus of a departmental reading library, the Senate will consider his generous suggestion and explore ways and means of accepting the collection, housing it, and adding to it.

Dr. Bowden seconded the motion. Dr. Ruszkiewicz explained that the library contained approximately 5,000 volumes. It would require about 70 feet of shelf, a room with study areas, and security. Dr. Sackton would like for the collection to be regarded as the nucleus of a departmental reading library, non-circulating, designed for English Department graduate students and faculty. The collection does contain some rare books. Dr. Sackton hoped that in the future retiring professors would add their working libraries to the collection. There was some discussion of the problems the Department would need to solve in order to accept the collection: primarily, finding appropriate centrally-located space for the collection. In addition, the Department would need to allocate money to provide staff support and security. After Dr. Ruszkiewicz noted that the resolution asked only that the Senate explore the possibility of accepting Dr. Sackton's generous donation, the Senate approved the motion unanimously.

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Discussion of the so-called Rodi Proposal ("An Alternative Plan for Improving the Hiring of Lecturers," Dr. Sue Rodi, 2/21/83) was introduced by Dr. Sharon Wevill. In response to a query at the last Senate meeting, Dr. Wevill had conducted a mail ballot to determine the opinions of the Lecturers in the Department: specifically, she asked the Lecturers whether they supported the Rodi Proposal. Dr. Wevill received 35 responses out of a possible 69: 31 said they supported the proposal and 4 said they did not. In light of this response, Dr. Wevill wondered if the Senate might reconsider its decision to delay action on Lecturer policy until the new committee reports to the Senate. Dr. Wevill thought that the Senate might wish to suggest to the EC that the proposal, or at least some sections of the proposal, could serve temporarily as a clarification and improvement in the hiring conditions of Lecturers while more permanent solutions are explored. Accordingly, Dr. Wevill moved, and Dr. Alan Friedman seconded, that the Rodi Proposal be discussed by the Senate.

There was extended discussion of the appropriateness of considering the Lecturer proposal separately from other proposals which the department-wide committee might investigate. Dr. Wayne Lesser said that, in his opinion, the major problem with accepting portions of the Rodi Proposal is that it presumes agreement on basic principles. The Department, through the department-wide committee and through departmental debate, will have to decide on these principles before solutions to the Lecturer problem will be found. Dr. Joseph Kruppa said that the proposal concerns itself primarily with long-term solutions; therefore, he thought it would be difficult to implement the proposal in the short-term.

Dr. Lesser moved, Dr. Thomas Cable seconded, the following substitute motion:

Be it resolved that the Rodi Proposal (a document identified as the consensus opinion of roughly 50% of the Lecturers) be referred to the department-wide committee to study the Lecturer situation.

The substitute motion was approved.

After general discussion of the possibility of encouraging early hiring of Lecturers, Dr. James Skaggs moved, Dr. Thomas Whitbread seconded, the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Senate expresses its full support of the EC's recorded commitment to appointments by June 1 for as many as 75% of the Department's projected Lecturer needs provided funding is made available.

The motion was approved.

The Chair announced that in accordance with the motion passed at the 28 January 1983 Senate meeting he had contacted the chairs of the Creative Writing, Rhetoric & Composition, Criticism, Lang/Ling, Popular Culture, and Bibliography interest groups to further ascertain their requests for senior recruitment with respect to research and teaching interests and accomplishments of prospective candidates. The responses were as follows:

1. Creative Writing - "The Creative Writing group now feels that it does not wish the Department to consider appointing another writer at the Associate Professor level. We would like to withdraw our earlier request for such a consideration. It seems to us that while demand for our courses continues to be high, our present program does not need a new, tenured professor as much as it will need additional faculty at the assistant professor level." [Zulfikar Ghose, 23 February 1983]
2. Rhetoric & Composition - "Recommendations for hiring at the Associate level are (A) Specialist in Classical Rhetoric or 20th Century Rhetorical Theory or (B) 18th Century combination position with Lang/Ling or Popular Culture or Criticism or 18th Century British Literature." [John Ruszkiewicz, 1 March 1983]
3. Criticism - "Since we have recommended criticism as a secondary interest for candidates, we defer to our faculty in his/her primary interest to determine the principal qualifications. We wish to observe, however, that we do not at present have anyone in the criticism group who can teach the classical texts, emphasizing the subtleties of their critical terminology. Therefore, someone who works with ancient Greek and Latin, and could bring this to bear on the teaching of an historical survey, would be valuable to us." [Wayne Lesser, 11 March 1983]
4. Lang/Ling - ". . . The Lang/Ling program clearly requires the addition of one senior-level faculty member whose research and teaching interests would strengthen the program in one or more of four areas of current weakness. The program would benefit significantly from the addition of a senior specialist in one of the following areas: (1) Middle English; (2) Early Modern English; (3) Early American English; (4) Applied English Linguistics. Preferably the new faculty member would be someone with additional interests which would contribute to the department in areas other than Lang/Ling. For example, a specialist in Middle English language with a strong secondary interest in the Medieval Romance would be a definite asset to the department. So would be a language historian in any of the three specified areas if that person also had interests in the rhetoric of the period. An applied English linguist with ESL credentials who could also direct and develop the department's program in English for foreign students would also be highly desirable. In addition to possessing teaching and research interests which would add

to those of existing faculty members, a suitable addition to the faculty would have to be someone who has served at least one year as a tenured Associate Professor in a respected university and who has a strong and steady record of quality publications and the promise of future distinction in English language scholarship." [Gary Underwood, 18 February 1983]

5. Popular Culture - "The decision that the department made several years ago to include popular culture as one of its areas, and an area important enough to teach a regular series of graduate courses, should not be allowed to change simply because of Horace Newcomb's move into the College of Communication. If the department wishes to move popular culture much further into the periphery of its interests, then such a decision should be made directly, after formal consideration by the Graduate Programs Committee. On recruitment for the Newcomb line the popular culture interest group requests an associate level appointment in popular culture studies to replace Horace Newcomb. The ideal candidate should have (a) major interests, but not necessarily exclusive interests, in popular literature, and these do not have to be limited to the twentieth century; (b) background in popular culture/mass culture theory and criticism; (c) the ability to teach the graduate seminar in theory; and (d) publications in either a popular literature genre or in popular culture mass culture theory." [Richard Simon et al., 18 February 1983]
6. Bibliography - "Professor Todd's retirement in the not too distant future makes us aware that he will leave a great lacuna in this Department, particularly in its Bibliography Group. That gap should be filled only by a first-rate scholar, preferably one with expertise in British 18th-Century bibliography. We urge the Department to begin its search soon and offer whatever assistance may be needed." [Kate Frost, 11 March 1983]

After extended discussion of the various needs of the interests groups and the overall effect of such needs on the graduate program, the Senate passed a series of motions establishing a priority ranking for recruitment at the tenured-level.

Dr. Lesser moved, Dr. Kruppa seconded, that the first priority for a tenured appointment be in Lang/Ling. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Lester Faigley moved, Dr. William Stott seconded, that the second priority for a tenured appointment be in Historical Rhetoric & Criticism, preferably Classical and/or 18th Century. The motion passed unanimously. [Note: The phrase "tenured" was retroactively placed in the motion later in the meeting. The motion was approved then also.]

Dr. Roger Renwick moved, Dr. Kruppa seconded, that the third priority for a tenured appointment be in Popular Culture. The motion was approved 11-4-1. [A substitute motion by Dr. Friedman, seconded by Dr. Bowden, that Bibliography be given third priority ranking was defeated 5-10-1.]

Dr. Friedman moved, Dr. Bowden seconded, that the fourth priority for a tenured appointment be in Bibliography. The motion passed unanimously.

In recognition of Dr. William Todd's distinguished reputation and outstanding service to the Department, Dr. Megaw said that the Department should request that the UT Administration establish one of its Centennial Chairs in Bibliography; furthermore, the Administration should be asked to begin searching for an outstanding scholar in Bibliography rather than to wait until Dr. Todd's retirement. Accordingly, Dr. Megaw moved, Prof. Albert Goldbarth seconded, the following motion:

Be it resolved that the Senate urge the Administration to allow a search at both the full and associate professor levels for a position in Bibliography, and that the Senate urge the Administration to make this position one of the Centennial Chairs.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Pamela Wheeler
Secretary