

CORRECTED AEGS minutes from November 27, 2007

Members in Attendance:

Steven Hackbarth, Mark Zunac, Shaunna Wilkinson, Colleen Fenno, Kelsey Squire, Daniel Burke, John Malloy, Eric Dunnum, Sarah Nestor, Maggie McKinley

Absent: Buddy Storm, Leah Stegman

I. Officer Report

A. Daniel Burke, Liaison to Ph.D. Students

1. Discussed presentation of Teaching Cooperative initiative to Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) in November. The GSC discussed and recommended that, after revisions, the cooperative teaching proposal be referred to the Executive Committee at a date to be determined.

II. New Business

- AEGS congratulates Maria Keaton and Mark Zunac, who have both successfully defended their dissertations. Best wishes to Dr. Keaton and Dr. Zunac!
- AEGS congratulates Marty and Heather Brick on the arrival of their daughter Eilish Ann.
- The next meeting of the AEGS will take place in February. All officers are asked to submit their schedules as soon as possible so that a meeting time can be determined.
- AEGS voted to have an ASF social on Tuesday, December 11th at 5:30 p.m. in the ASF and will order pizza for the event.
- AEGS voted to plan a social in the spring as a study break for MA students taking MA exams. However, all graduate students are invited to attend.
- Thanks to Dr. Rivero for continuing to follow up on the issue of travel reimbursement for graduate students.
- AEGS discussed registration concerns raised by graduate students having difficulty enrolling in courses and voted to form an ad-hoc committee. An ad-hoc committee of graduate students will put together and circulate a survey concerning which courses graduate students want and need during their time of coursework (AEGS President Steve Hackbarth confirmed with Dr. Rivero that survey information would be helpful to the Department). The results of the survey will be non-binding and informational. We understand that the Department must consider many concerns when planning which graduate courses will be offered. We hope that such survey information, which we hope will be obtained in the future at least annually, will be helpful in the planning of graduate classes.

III. Officer/Liaison Reports

B. Mark Zunac, Vice President

1. Updated AEGS on book sale progress, which includes a plan to hold a book sale in Coughlin early next spring for graduate students and faculty. In addition, there are plans to hold a campus wide book and bake sale later in the spring.
2. The GSO is currently holding elections for officers.

C. Sarah Nestor, Secretary

D. Kelsey Squire, Liaison to Graduate Studies Committee

1. Reported on GSC meeting held November 7th. The GSC discussed and recommended pursuing the Teaching Cooperative initiative. They also discussed assessment of the MA and Ph.D. program in relation to students' completion of requirements. They also discussed the revision of the English Department mission statement that will now include the MA and Ph.D. programs. It was noted that errors on the English Department website have now been fixed. The GSC also voted in favor of removing ENGL 299 (the M.A. thesis option) from the graduate bulletin and course offerings because the Masters in English is a plan B (exam) option only degree program. Students interested in a MA thesis will be encouraged to take an independent study that focuses on their area of interest.

E. Eric Dunnum, Liaison to FYE

F. John Malloy, Liaison to Faculty

1. Reported on November 14th faculty meeting. The faculty agreed to remove MA thesis course, ENGL 299, from course offerings.
2. They also voted to ratify the undergrad English teaching major known as "TENG" that was eliminated by order of the Provost Office. Once the School of Education becomes the College of Education in fall 2008 the TENG majors, who were primary English majors with a secondary degree in education, will become education majors with a secondary major in English. The English Department will lose students as primary majors, but will retain them as secondary majors.
3. The faculty discussed the use of IAS forms in graduate courses taught by professors not yet tenured. University guidelines are apparently not clear on whether this is required every semester, so untenured faculty will continue to use the forms in all graduate courses until a definite answer arrives from the graduate school or administration.
4. The faculty discussed the Yardley Report and Dr. Ratcliffe has written a letter to the provost disagreeing with the report's findings and methodology.

G. Colleen Fenno, Liaison to Preparing Future Faculty

H. Shaunna Wilkinson, Liaison to 1st Year M.A. Students

I. Maggie McKinley, Public Relations

1. Thanked Buddy Storm and Daniel Burke for their additions to the most recent *English News*.
2. Discussed Christmas party that will be held Saturday, November 15th from 7 to 10 p.m. at Professor C.J. Hribal's home. Dress for the party is casual. Invitations for the party have been emailed and placed in mailboxes. AEGS has arranged for volunteers to help with both setup and cleanup of the party.