

## Minutes of the Undergraduate Studies Committee Meeting Feb.28, 2007

Present: Craig Bertolet (chair), Chris Forhan, Bonnie Jean Shamp, Marc Silverstein, Isabelle Thompson

### I. Announcements:

Susana Morris will be teaching the Survey of African-American Literature in the fall; American Realism and Naturalism and 16<sup>th</sup>-Century English Literature have not yet been assigned to faculty and will be staffed pending the outcome of the job searches in American literature and Early Modern English literature. The CUS announced that we are up to 344 majors and, given the pattern of the last few years, we can probably expect more students to declare an English major during the registration period.

### II. Approval of Minutes for 1 December:

We tabled this since we did not have a copy of the minutes.

### III. Registration for Summer and Fall:

Registration for summer courses begins on March 5 and for fall courses on April 2. Course descriptions for summer are due on March 2 and for fall on March 6. Fall registration will utilize the Banner system for the first time, and since the CUS does not have administrative authority to use Banner, there is a certain degree of mystery surrounding how this process will work.

### IV. Waiting Lists for Spring 2007:

On the positive side, we were able to place more people on the waiting lists into classes this semester than we have in the past. 39 students on the waiting list found seats in our courses, while only 13 did not—of those 13, 4 students could not find places due to either a time-conflict, maximum hours or withdrawal from Auburn. On the other hand, we have seen a steady decline in the number of students asking to be placed on the waiting lists since Fall 2005, when we had 167 students on the list. We can't quite explain this drop in numbers, particularly since this is a period in which we have seen a growth in the overall number of majors.

### V. Plan of Study Revision:

Discussion of this matter continued from the previous meeting. Since we need to schedule a faculty meeting relatively soon if we approve this revision, and since we have had two members of the committee unable to attend the two meetings where this was an agenda item, we decided to have the committee vote by e-mail on the motion rather than waiting another two weeks. There was general agreement among those present that dividing the concentrations into a literature track and a writing track is a positive measure. This will give the students more freedom while also placing even more importance on the advising system Isabelle Thompson detailed the advantages for the TPC students, and we agreed that since there is no official recognition of the concentration, and literature students often feel like they can't explore the kind of literature they prefer given the requirements of the current concentration (requirements which are frequently overlooked by the advisors in Liberal Arts), we thought that the

revision—which does retain the English major core—will make our program a more desirable major.

The meeting ended at 3:00

--Submitted by Marc Silverstein