

Undergraduate Studies Committee Minutes

April 5, 2006

Members Present: Craig Bertolet (Chair), Chris Forhan, Julie Hinz, Cedrick May, Marc Silverstein, Isabelle Thompson

The Meeting was called to order at 2:00.

The following announcements were made:

- Registration of English majors was 252 before spring break and will probably top 255 by the end of the registration period.
- The committee will need faculty approval to change ENGL 4310 from British Drama to Drama of Shakespeare's Contemporaries course.
- The USC Chair is still in the process of acquiring the funds for the awards ceremony on the 21st of April

The minutes for the March 22, 2006 meeting were approved.

The Chair reported on the figures for the upper-division English courses and noted that there seemed to be no threat of having to cancel any classes. At the last check, there were only four classes with lower than 20, but that all other classes had registrations between 24 and full.

There was a discussion about raising the number of pages in upper-level classes from 8 pages to 10 pages. It was noted that this increase is intended to serve the goal of allowing students to show that they could do more sustained research projects that could also be used as writing samples for graduate schools.

In conjunction with the discussion on reconsidering page requirements, it was acknowledged that a stronger focus on the *instruction* of writing in these upper-division courses might be necessary to complement any increase in page-length.

The meeting as adjourned at 2:58.