Department of English Council Meeting Friday, October 20th, 2017

Attendance: Dwight Atkinson, Damián Baca, Meg Lota Brown, Lauren Mason, Aimee Mapes, Lee Medovoi, Manuel Muñoz, Casey Richardson Jeff Schlueter, Scott Selisker, Susan White

Meeting began at 2:00pm in ML 453

I. **Agenda: Discussion of Career-Track Lecturer Promotion Proposal**

II. **Recap of the events that led to the need for these discussions in the first place**

A. Faculty Senate constitutional amendments mention the changes in the definitions of “Career-Track Faculty”, which mean we (as a department) can decide how to include (if we decide to include in the first place) Lecturers in the department as a whole—in terms of voting rights.

B. In light of the Faculty Senate amendments, this raises the question of how we determine promotion criteria and paths for Career-Track Lecturers—are these issues intertwined and if so, to what extent?

III. **Vote on referring the Career-Track Lecturer Promotion Plan to the Voting Rights Task Force**

A. The Council voted (9-1) in favor of referring the Career –Track Lecturer Promotion Plan to the Voting Rights Task Force

IV. **Recap of what Council does**

A. There was discussion of what exactly it is Council does, to clear up some confusion from the various issues we’ve been tackling as of late. Council has four main objectives/responsibilities:

   a. Council has the authority to appoint committees. The department head can bring a slate of committee nominations to Council for approval.

   b. Council is tasked with curricular decisions. All curricular decisions that have an impact on the department as a whole come through Council. Once Council approves a curricular decision with a positive vote, it is approved.
c. Council’s job is to interpret the constitution. If we, as a department, have any uncertainties about the constitution, we can consult the parliamentarian but ultimately, it’s up to Council.

d. Council holds an advisory role for the department. It is important to have a representative group across ranks and programs to get feedback and advice on issues. If an issue is moving forward that is complicated or charged, the department head may feel more comfortable running it by Council (even if the head can make decisions unilaterally on particular issues), it is always welcomed to be able to report to the department what Council thought of a particular idea.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.