

Graduate Students on Freshman English Policy Committee

1. Handbook of Operating Procedures does not rule out graduate students on course committees.
2. No specific opposition in the English Department to graduate students serving on Freshman English Policy Committee; Governance Committee acknowledged the precedent and no one spoke against it at the only public forum where the question was addressed.
3. Service from graduate students for more than a decade has been superior.

--Minutes attest to laborious service on evaluation, textbook, evaluation, and other committees.

--Graduate students who serve on the committee gain the practical experience that leads them to jobs: placement record off the committee has been extraordinary. Service on such a committee (common across the country) is important to graduate students in rhet/comp. Our students are expected to be able to run a program when they leave--and they have: Steven Lynn, Susan Jarratt, David Jolliffe, Tom Miller, Cynthia Selfe, Paul Ranieri, Roger Cherry, Philip Sipiora.

--Committee membership is important in building trust and respect of graduate students: no problems implementing tougher grade inflation program this term because graduate students trust the freshman office.

--Students have served with remarkable maturity: proposed a more thorough program for AI supervision in 1984. Turned down by departmental senate.

--Graduate students usually more knowledgeable about rhetoric and composition than faculty members on the committee. Represent a new, older group of graduate students more certain of their purposes.

--Graduate students provide an independent perspective. Not currently appointed by Chair or Freshman Director.