

LOWER DIVISION ENGLISH POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 8, 1989

Attending: Brodkey, Henkel, Hilfer, Ruszkiewicz, Slatin,
Piedmont-Marton, Weeda

Absent: S. Heinzelman (exc.), Nehring (exc.), Twombly (exc.),
Trachsel

- I. Brodkey called the meeting to order at (about) 3:00 p.m.

- II. Report from the Chair/Director (Brodkey): Worthen (Graduate Advisor) and Brodkey will decide who the new Lower Division English assistant directors for 1989-90 will be. A new section has been added for English 309/314L proposals, in hopes that those proposing courses will more carefully address the issue necessitating more proposal rewrites than any other: "An explanation of how writing is to be used in the course." Brodkey also related parts of her conversation with the Chair (Sutherland): For Summer 1989, AI's will not be required to order student evaluations. Lower Division English will attempt to organize grading and pedagogy sessions, encourage group/panel grading. A proposed meeting will encourage collaboration among AI's. Brodkey emphasized that students (including provisionals) should be treated fairly, but that the AI's also need support.

- III. A discussion on the appropriateness of use of notes from instructors was renewed from 2/22/89: Weeda argued that such notes were necessary; that otherwise, either no adds would be allowed after the fourth class day or that the Lower Division Office would have exclusive authority (read: "too much power") over the decision. Slatin moved as follows: "Students should be permitted to enroll in class after the fourth class day with written permission from the instructor provided that the class is not full." The ensuing discussion involved the (apparent; see below) disparity between Lower Division and Upper Division policy. Henkel was concerned that such a policy might encourage students to do more shopping around. Ruszkiewicz said that an overall "no instructor notes" policy protected faculty and AI's. Brodkey suggested tabling the discussion; Ruszkiewicz so moved, and it was so voted. Weeda was asked to investigate Upper Division policy. (Weeda's

investigation subsequently turned up a policy on Upper Division English similar to that currently in effect for Lower Division: That is, a note from the instructor is currently necessary to add any undergraduate English course after the fourth class day. The policy is only less visible in Upper Division. Until further motions are made, Weeda concludes that the pan-undergraduate English exception to the "no instructor notes" policy after the fourth class day still holds.)

- IV. It was announced that the E 298T subcommittee did not meet.

- V. A consensus was reached that discussion of AI/TA supervision would be put off until later, though the basic problem was announced: We don't have enough faculty to supervise English department AI's and TA's.

- VI. Hilfer moved that we "run away." We did. At 3:40 p.m.