

*Copy for Mr. Burkhardt*

Minutes of the Meeting of the Literature Faculty

March 24, 1949

I. After the minutes were read, Mr. Kunitz reported on Mr. Burkhardt's reaction to our statement about graduate work in literature. A sub-committee of two (Kunitz and Foster) was appointed to get the statement into shape for publication. In addition to the material presented last time, some emphasis should be given to the fact that certain scholarly projects are unfeasible; and plenty of emphasis should be given to the fact that creative writing and creative scholarship are available.

II. Point two of last week's discussion died the death. (By April 4 rumor had it that a resurrection was taking place.)

III. Mr. Kunitz reported on his conversation with Mr. Burkhardt about new literature staff for next year. Three people, or preferably two, could be considered. The job now is to work out a provisional curriculum, and means for lessening our load, with an aim to solving the problem by addition of only two people during the year.

The possibilities are as follows:

1. Larger sections of LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE.
2. One instructor teaching two sections. (Possibly two instructors)
3. Fowlie and Golffing both having a section.

A suggestion to have M.A. candidates take sections was rejected.

Other heavy loads that need consideration are certain advanced courses whose registration is likely to mount in view of the fact that 5 of this year's advanced courses are not going to be fully available.

Then there is Spanish.

IV. Then we discussed the curriculum and candidates for jobs simultaneously.

1. Advanced Basics.

Would Mr. Golffing teach one? How about his translation course?

Would Nemerov? No; wants to drop MYTH OF THE QUEST.

Would R. Lewis? Presumably. (Note: He was absent.)

Would Fowlie? Wilcox? Unger? Darky? Hyman?

Mr. Hyman had been suggested as a candidate for next year.

2. Other advanced courses contemplated were MODERN POETRY, a course in Dryden and Pope, SHAKESPEARE, American Fiction, Nineteenth and Twentieth Century English and Continental Fiction, a poetry course of some sort to be offered by Mr. Golffing. A course by Wilcox in Elizabethan drama; one by Darky in the epic; one by Unger in criticism or poetry; one by Hyman in criticism and one on myth.

3. It looked as though we could get along with 2 additions.

Then the question of lessening load by cutting down the Senior thesis was discussed. I have the notes on this, but the general concensus of opinion was that this was a distinctive and valuable feature of the Bennington educational offering, and should not be cut down. (Especially in a reading-writing field like literature.)



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The last part of the discussion was devoted to points raised by the Faculty Committee.

1. Are end of term reports O.K.? Yes, they are all right. Mr. Burke suggested that a list of good things to comment about be drawn up (perhaps by the Student Personnel office) and circulated to faculty. The list would be made on the basis of those comments which had been considered useful in the past.
2. Staffing survey for new regime.
3. Faculty participation in admissions.
4. Group counseling. (C. Foster is doing it and will report to E. Hall)
5. M.A. (We've almost finished this.)
6. Proposal re communication from the Administrative offices, especially the President's office to faculty groups so they'd know what was going on. Yes.
7. Outline for salary plan. (Said to be under way.)
8. Has any one had any bright ideas for foundations' funds use?

The meeting was breaking up so these points were very lightly discussed, if discussed at all.

Respectfully submitted,

C. O. Foster