

# Action Recommendations and Updates

for the

## Department of English

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### **Recommendation 1: Recruitment**

In our Review, the first of our recommendations was to request funds for recruitment. Word of mouth" is all-well-and-good, but we could have yet more majors and enjoy still greater success were the University willing to make funding available to us. This money might be used to create a CD ROM to be passed along to our grads-- who, in turn, might work as our recruiters for new majors.

**Update:** We still have no budget for any recruitment, although Professor Werner and I still regularly contact our former students, now teachers at local schools, urging them to consider sending their best and brightest to us.

### **Recommendation 2: Exploring the Viability of an online M.A. Program or a California Studies Program**

More than 60% of our grads want to keep in touch with us, and more than 10% of our recent grads have asked us directly why we don't have an M.A. Program. Clearly, given the option, our grads would prefer to continue their education with us.

**Update:** We still have no budget to look into this possibility, though we have recently contacted Franz Potter, who runs the online M.A. at National University, and have scheduled a meeting in May. Further Professors Werner and Scambray have expressed interest in taking ULV's training for online teaching.

### **Recommendation 3: Teaching Strategies**

Although the Department does a good job of offering students varying kinds of learning, the fact of the matter is that the Survey courses have no long paper requirements. The midterm and final, both in class, prepare the student for the rigorous of our Senior Exam, but no class works as a bridge for the long paper requirements of the Shakespeare class (Eng 340).

**Update:** The English faculty continues to discuss and refine the role of the long research paper in our students' course of study and its relevance, given today's educational environment.

### **Recommendation 4: Senior Exam (English 499)**

Our senior exam has gone through a variety of metamorphoses, which has caused some confusion. We should have a moratorium on changing the Senior Exam for at least five

years. We might reinforce the importance of literary terms in all our courses, especially in the upper division courses students generally take just prior to the Senior Exam.

**Update:** The Department is now offering an eight-week long group tutorial on how to prepare for the Senior Exam. We have also set up a BB site, allowing students to aid each other in their preparation. The tutorial is led by a member of the English Department, who encourages students to consider past examination as a model and to prepare by (1) intensive study of the texts in question; (B) related critical materials; (C) comparison and contrast of the given works with other meaningfully related works; (D) discussion with other class members, and (E) conferences with other senior members of the department.