

ENGLISH STUDENTS ASSOCIATION MEETING, APRIL, 29, 2019

NEW COMMITTEES:

- Congratulations to everyone elected to AY 2019/20 ESA committee positions!

ADMISSIONS:

- Changes to admissions procedures have been implemented. During the first round of review, applicants will be evaluated by field-specialists. The Admission Committee claimed that this change, in part, addresses diversity. There was some disagreement from students over this point.
 - **Trying to overcome implicit bias by having a smaller amount across a larger group of people. Then in the smaller admissions committee there can be more discussion.**
 - **Issues with PEF grants as a silver bullet for diversity.**

FACULTY MEMBERSHIP:

- Unanimous vote to recommend Michael Gillespie for consortial appointment in African American studies. He will not take up our courses because he is cross listed with Art History. He might also be appointed in film. His course credits will therefore be subtracted from these other areas. By appointing him, we make it possible for him to sit on committees, and we make no guarantees that he will teach.
- There was an agreement to put a moratorium on hiring until we've had a conversation about our department's needs, and the strategy we want to adopt in light of the fact that we cannot now guarantee that appointees will teach every year. This means we will not begin the searches for Latinx, postcolonial, or Romanticist next year, but will complete the African American search already in process.
- Shoumik urged us to move forward with the appointment of Sonali Perera. He pointed out that it is shameful that, with the loss of Mina, we now have no women of color in the department who work on the global south. Perera was mentioned several times in the ESA survey of possible appointees, which is another reason to continue to advocate for her appointment.
- On May 10, Kelly Baker Josephs, Associate Professor at York College, CUNY, will be with us for Faculty Membership events for a scholar in African American Literature and Literary Theory. Kelly will be leading a seminar at 12:00 PM in room C204 and then at 2PM giving a job talk, "Caribbean Articulations: Storytelling from Digital Yards" (description below), in our lounge. Students (especially students in years 1-3) and faculty are encouraged to attend one or both of these events.

DIVERSITY:

- Final draft of diversity statement was submitted to ESA co-chairs. Any final suggestions before publication? Should this be made available to the wider community, or simply passed on to the incoming diversity committee as a foundation to begin work next year?

- **General support.**
- **What do we do now?**

FRIDAY FORUM:

- Form has yet to be sent out to students and faculty to plan events for next semester's Friday Forums.