

English/ESL Department Meeting
April 9, 2012
Minutes

Present: Tess Caldwell, JoAnn Hobbs, Alex Sterling, Cora Stryker, Sara Toruno-Conley, Paula Gunder, Jeff Mitchell , Katalina Wethington, Nancy Ybarra, Michael Yeong, Yongmin Zhu

Absent: Barbara Austin, Ana Gutierrez, Joellen Hiltbrand, Karen Nakaji, Maria Tuttle

Announcements

Today is the College Assembly on Vision 20/20 (Workforce Development) and the Academic Senate Forum on AA degree /General Education requirements for non-transfer students. Alex urges members of the department to vote “no” on the ballot we received in the mail, thereby asking the Senate to continue its discussions on GE requirements, rather than automatically cutting them to the minimum of 18 units required in Title 5.

Developmental Education – New Directions?

Katalina led this discussion, beginning with distributing the current job description for our DE Faculty Lead position, currently shared by Katalina and Sara. Currently, the DE leads lead our teaching communities, coordinate the Counseling Partnership in English 70, provide leadership and coordination for tutoring in English 70, and work with college wide committees such as TLP and the college wide DE committee. They also provide resources for faculty teaching DE courses.

Katalina asked the department for feedback about new initiatives and directions we would like to see the department explore, e.g. acceleration or contextualization of basic skills. We had some discussion about placement testing, prerequisites, and possible strategies for accelerating student progress through our developmental sequence into transfer. We asked Katalina to investigate other possibilities, and possibly present, or ask others to present, these options in a flex workshop.

English 100

Sara led this discussion, beginning with distributing the results of the English 100 holistic scoring of the research paper done in January 2012 flex. Given the results – about 34% of those assessed did not demonstrate proficiency in writing the research paper- we discussed possible strategies for improving student learning, and implications for the revision of the course outline of record. We need to revise and update the course outline of record in Fall 2012. Sara volunteered to be the lead writer on that revision, and will work with the 100 subcommittee on a draft for the entire department to consider in Fall.

