IVC English Department

Meeting Minutes 25 April 2013 Room 2727 noon

PRESENT

Baukholt, Robert Lay, Nancy Samaniego, Olivia Bemis, Roberta McNeece, Brian Shaner, Christina Cormier, Judy Morris, Audrey Tirado, Xochitl Dorantes, Kathleen Patterson, James

Rowley, Deirdre

ABSENT

Davis, Lincoln Rapp, Frank Ruhl, Taylor

GUESTS

Beckett, Phil Ferrell, Diana Williams, Harriet

I. Call to Order (J. Patterson)

Heumann, Michael

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. Consent Agenda (Approval of Minutes)

The minutes of 28 March 2013 were approved as presented.

(MSC - R. Baukholt/M. Heumann)

III. Discussion

Limiting the number of four-unit, once-per-week classes

James Patterson noted that in Spring 2013, there were only five sections of four-unit classes that met once per week. In Fall 2013, there will be 18 sections. He noted that these five sections now have an 81 percent retention rate while the twice-per-week classes have a 70 percent retention rate on the roster at this time.

Michael Heumann said that four hours is a long time for developmental students to sit in a classroom. Deirdre Rowley said it will be more interesting to learn the success rate rather than the retention rate. Robert Baukholt said that of his four-unit classes, the evening once-per-week class will probably have the lowest success rate. He said the material does not seem to stick. Plus, there were two Monday holidays when the class did not meet at all in the week.

Nancy Lay said these long classes can be stressful and tiring for both teacher and student. Xochitl Tirado said she needs to spend reviewing a lot and often

students leave before the end of the class, but the students stick to the class because that time frame works for them.

James Patterson showed an email from adjunct Joe Apodaca who stated that he likes the four-hour classes, and that they can be useful, provided that the instructor varies the activity and the material.

Olivia Samaniego said that she thinks even three hours makes for a difficult class length.

James Patterson said he will continue to look into the issue for the Spring 2014 schedule. He noted that there are some adjunct instructors that he has not yet heard from.

IV. Announcements

1. End of Semester News

James Patterson said that instructors have until May 16 to get in their grades. Michael Heumann added that in Fall, there will be online submission of grades. Administration is also looking into submitting drops online as well.

2. Summer Registration

James Patterson said that there are 20 English class sections available this summer. He said 36 percent of those have already been filled and registration has only been opened three days.

3. Fall 2013 Class Selection

James Patterson said that there are 103 English class sections in Fall 2013. Full-time instructors have thus far selected 64 of those sections. Full-time instructors have one more round of overload to make selections, and after that, the selection will go to part-time instructors. There are about 17 part-time instructors, he said, and this will be the first time adjuncts will select classes based on the new rules agreed to by the Part-Time Faculty Association. In that procedure, class selection will go one-by-one through the list of part-time instructors based on seniority. Patterson said he needs to get the seniority list sent out to adjunct instructors.

4. Curriculum

James Patterson discussed benchmarks for student success, Common Core, and Smart Balance. He said that the college needs to set benchmarks, Common Core is the standards that will be implemented in community colleges, and Smart Balance is the company that California has chosen to develop assessment tests. He said community colleges will go with 11th grade assessment tests since these are the best predictors of success in college. Patterson said this test information will be used prescriptively, not to single out individual teachers. He said that maybe we

would eventually adjust our sequence of material taught to mesh more with what is taught in high school.

5. Professional Learning Community

James Patterson gave a definition of a Professional Learning Community. He said that English has started a PLC beginning with the Collaboration Workshop held on April 12. That continued on April 16 when a group of instructors met to deconstruct the Measurable Course Objectives. He said many at meeting mentioned that the English Department needs to rewrite the Objectives to make them more compatible with the SLOs. There was another meeting on April 23 which focused on how teachers discuss/teach/deal with plagiarism. Patterson said that plagiarism is never mentioned in the Measurable Objectives, but it does come up in the SLOs.

Patterson noted that everyone is welcome to come to these meetings of the PLC, but no one is required to be there. He will send out Outlook invitations for the Fall semester for future meetings. He said he is thinking of inviting Leticia Pastrana to discuss the differences between adolescent and adult learners and Krista Byrd to discuss how "teacher attitude" affects learning.

6. Combat to the Classroom

James Patterson said he went to a seminar recently focused on combat veterans who return to the classroom. He said there are a lot of them because of the GI bill. Many of these students lack a sense of direction because the money they collect from the GI bill for attending classes is their only means of support. He said the VA reports that 80 percent of returning vets suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Now, the VA is also realizing that many of these veterans also suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury due minor concussions resulting from continuous loud explosions. He said that any such students should be referred to DSP&S.

V. Other

Michael Heumann noted that he has a class on Tuesday/Thursday beginning at 12:40 p.m., which would cut into college hour. James Patterson said he realized the schedule was set that way, so he plans on having only half-hourlong meetings in the Fall semester.

Judy Cormier asked if there will be any new classrooms available for English classes when the new technology building is opened. Patterson said he did not think so.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.