

# English Department

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 21, 2014**  
**Room 2721 12:00-1:00pm**

**PRESENT**

Baukholt, Robert  
Dorantes, Kathleen  
Howell, Kevin  
Rapp, Frank  
Shaner, Christina

Bemis, Roberta  
Ferrell, Diana  
Lay, Nancy  
Rowley, Deirdre  
Simpson, Scott

Cormier, Judy  
Heumann, Michael  
Morris, Audrey  
Samaniego, Olivia  
Zielinski, David

**ABSENT**

Tirado, Xochitl

**GUESTS**

Dr. Nicholas Akinkuoye      Tanya Dorsey

**Secretary**

Sara Hernandez

**I. Call to Order (Kathleen Dorantes)**

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

**II. Welcome and Introductions**

Kathleen welcomed everyone.

Deirdre asked if they were going to be picking Spring 2016 classes too and she asked how soon. Kathleen responded that selections for 2015/16 are supposed to be done by mid-November, so classes would be chosen very soon.

**III. Approval of Minutes—Sept. 16, 2014**

The minutes for October 12, 2014 were approved as presented.

**(M/S/C – R. Bemis/J. Cormier)**

**IV. Discussion**

A. ESL-English Dialogue group

1. Bridge program

Kathleen reported that there is a group of eight ESL and English faculty that have gotten together to discuss how to better prepare ESL students for English classes. The group has come up with an idea for a Bridge Program in which successful ESL 5 students would

participate in an intensive session to better prepare them for English 8.

These would have four classes, Academic Listening, Academic Reading, Academic Writing and Study Skills. The program would run six hours a day, and the classes would be non-credit. There would be no grades. This program has been pitched to the Student Equity Committee, a group which has funds that are earmarked to benefit basic skills students.

Deirdre asked if there would be students who would finish ESL 005 but not participate in the Bridge Program and would go directly into ENGL 008? Kathleen said yes, the program is voluntary. If we can find funding for the program, the ESL teachers would go into the classes and talk about how at the end of this program they should be ready for ENGL 008, they will take the Accuplacer at the end of the program and perhaps they could even place in to ENGL 009 because they will have a very intensive program, six hours a day for the session.

The ESL folks seem to think that this program will fill.

Kathleen asked Tanya what she thought about the program. Tanya agreed with Deirdre in that it might just be too easy for the students to drop. She did mention, however, that some students might just stick with it because a lot of them are just terrified to go in to ENGL 008. Kathleen mentioned that there is no homework in this program because they'd get everything done in the six hours that they spend in class each day. There are no grades. There would just be practice in class.

## **B. Paired classes or Learning Communities**

We have two Paired classes on the schedule for spring time: ENGL 09 with a READ 019 and an ENGL 009 with an ENGL 059. The target student would be one who is struggling to pass English 9.

Judy thinks that at this point when they're already in ENGL 009 and struggling, maybe it's already a little too late. She feels we should be targeting ENGL 008 students who are struggling and barely passing. Kathleen said she will expand that to ENGL 008 and 009 classes.

Roberta asked if she was also going to target READ 018. Kathleen decided to make the pitch for ENGL 008, 009 and READ 018.

### C. SLOs – Lead Faculty

- Engl. 8 Kevin Howell
- Engl. 9 Xochitl Tirado
- Engl. 10 David Zielinski
- Engl. 110 Deirdre Rowley
- Engl. 59 Roberta Bemis
- Engl. 201 Frank Rapp
- Engl. 102 Christina Shaner
- Engl. 224 Michael Heumann
- Eng. 250 Nikolai Beope
- Read 18 Nancy Lay
- Read 19 Nancy Lay
- Read 111 Audrey Morris

**Dr. Akinkuoye** stopped by for a short visit in to our meeting. He thanked everyone for changing lives as educators. He said that a lot of times the students don't realize how much potential they have until their teachers point it out! The word potential means a lot to him. It comes from the word potent, which means to have life or be powerful. When you have life, there's no end to the imagination of where that life can go.

Dr. Akinkuoye reminded us that he just stopped by to say hello and if anyone had any questions, they could ask him. He wished everyone a good rest of the semester.

### D. Pods

Kathleen mentioned that writing pods may be brought back again, but this time the pods would be formed based on common interests. For instance, there could be a pod of pre-nursing students, and the topics of the pod could focus on medical terms and readings.

### E. Games in the classroom

Kathleen had the group play a couple of games that she uses in her classroom. Teaching grammar can get a little dry. This is a way to liven it up and have a little fun with it. When Kathleen's classes play these games, she offers the winning team just a little bit of extra credit for playing, and the students become motivated and excited about the extra credit. Kathleen said that when the students play these games, it get them up and moving, gets the blood flowing. Kathleen asked the group if any of them use games in the classroom. A few said they do.

## V. Reports

- A. Chair's Report (Kathleen Dorantes)
  - 1. Scheduling

We're in the midst of scheduling. We will schedule the entire 15/16 years in as soon as Melody finds classrooms and give Kathleen the schedule. We could be doing a couple of them at the same time, choosing classes. Michael asked if that was smart to do as there's enough confusion going on already. Kathleen is concerned that if we don't work on two at the same time, we may not have enough time to get it all done.

2. **SPOL Training**

Kathleen reminded the group that everyone will enter their SLO information directly into SPOL, and therefore, it was important to go to one of the many training sessions.

3. **Book orders**

Book orders are all in, and Kathleen and Sara thanked all of the English instructors.

**B. Academic Senate Report (Michael Heumann)**

Michael reported that there will be a retreat on November 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday afternoon, the State Academic Senate President, David Morris will be here and that should be interesting. He asked specifically for topics that he should discuss and Michael mentioned AB86 as one topic. We can get a state-wide take on what's going on with it.

**C. AB86 report (Audrey Morris)**

Audrey Morris is the English liaison with AB86. Part of Audrey's tasks will be going out in to the community and meeting with the teachers that teach Adult Ed like the GED, high school completion. Dr. Martha Garcia has to present a plan that the state will accept.

**VI. Other**

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59pm.

Next Department Meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2014.