

English Department

MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2015
Room 2721 12:00pm

PRESENT

Baukholt, Robert
Dorantes, Kathleen
Howell, Kevin
Simpson, Scott

Bemis, Roberta
Ferrell, Diana
Lay, Nancy
Rowley, Deirdre
Tirado, Xochitl

Cormier, Judy
Garcia, Olivia
Morris, Audrey
Shaner, Christina
Zielinski, David

ABSENT

Heumann, Michael

Rapp, Frank

GUEST

Dorsey, Tanya

Kemp, Elizabeth

James Patterson

I. Call to Order (Kathleen Dorantes)

Meeting was called to order at 12:03pm.

II. Consent Agenda (Approval of Minutes)

The minutes for March 17, 2015 were approved as presented.

(MSC – R. Baukholt/J. Cormier)

III. Discussion

1. English 8 Hybrid class

Kathleen announced that an instructor has asked to develop an English 8 Hybrid class. Before Kathleen gives her permission, she wants to have the department as a whole make a decision if English 8 is a good level for a hybrid class. She passed out a handout from a developmental distance education instructor at another college who supports distance ed for developmental levels.

Deirdre said that her thoughts were totally and completely thumbs down. She said English 008 students need lots of hand holding. They need lots of interaction and a variety of material. Deirdre is teaching the only English hybrid class, English Hybrid 110. She said she has designed a very good class, but there are still problems with the class. There is low retention and low success. She is dropping from two hybrid classes to one in the fall, and that has been moved to a night class.

Deirdre said her students work on the essays in class as well as them getting help on line. Nine have turned in all three essays to date and one

of those is the mid-term. Some students say they forgot to show up to class.

Deirdre gets students who ask, "Oh, this isn't fully online?" And when they find out it's not, they leave. She has other students she attempts to contact and when she reached them they tell her they didn't know they had to go to class. They think they just have to do the online work and then there are students that think the online work is extra. Some think they only have to go to class two hours a week to get four units of credit.

Deirdre said she figured out the students who are signing up for the hybrid class are students with low priority registration. It's what's left or they honestly think they can get by with only coming to class once a week and ignoring the online work.

Deirdre's feelings are this: If you have two semesters worth of problems like this with students who should be academically more mature, academically more responsible, she has no idea how they write because they haven't turned in any essays. If she's seeing that in 110, she asked if the English Department really wants to open this up to the developmental, academically inexperienced, immature English 008 students?

Scott asked if anyone had any good experiences with hybrid and Kathleen told him that Deirdre is the first, and so far the only person, to teach hybrid in the English Department.

Kevin said he has been talking to a couple of teachers at Mt. San Jacinto College. They said their developmental English classes have the same success rates as their face-to-face classes.

Judy has heard from her 110 students that have tried an online English class that they just crash and burn! She is wondering if the difference in success rate might have to do with a different focus for the class. She feels that since 008 classes work with sentences and paragraphs primarily, and that it's something better suited to be taught online than the 110.

Roberta mentioned that there's more than just learning sentences and paragraphs in ENGL 008. The Common Final is one of them. The students have to practice for that sufficiently to pass it. Roberta says that she's doing about five essays in her 008's.

Kathleen showed some success rates from some 110 classes from Spring 2014. She showed one that had a 93% success rate from one instructor, a 10% success rate from another instructor and then the online ones were pretty much the same success rate as the face-to-face one. She did say the success rates were all over the map for the 110's.

Audrey mentioned that she did notice that it's mostly at the beginning of the semester when she loses her the students that are going to drop. She generally doesn't lose them in her face-to-face sections. Audrey asked if it was possible to have some kind of pre-assessment for online readiness before they enroll in an online class.

Xochitl says she hasn't taught hybrid, but she has taught online 110 for a few semesters. She says she would think logically, it makes sense to offer a hybrid in the lower levels. She doesn't know if 008 is the right fit. She encourages her students to take an online class eventually because soon online classes will be a bigger thing of the future, especially living out here.

Scott was wondering if maybe the Math Department offers any of their lower level math classes as hybrid classes. James said that the Math Department members are also having this same discussion regarding lower level classes.

Robert has taught quite a few of the ENGL 008 classes face-to-face, and he said that there's a lot of clarification needed in English 8. Students are often confused about things in that class because of the language barrier that college instructors wouldn't expect them to be confused about. Rob said it's important to interact with the students and clarify things immediately.

Deirdre feels that her hybrid 110 class is still kind of like a pilot program.

2. First Step Welcome Event – May 9, 8:00-1:00pm

Kathleen announced that on Saturday, May 9th there will be an orientation for incoming freshman. Approximately 500 students along with their families will be here on campus for this First Step Welcome Event for the high school students who are transitioning here to college next fall. Norma Nuñez would like to have all departments and clubs represented. Kathleen is looking for ideas. One item of information that Kathleen would like to get out there to the students is that they should get their English classes done as soon as they can and not wait until right before they're about to graduate.

3. Central Union High School Articulation Agreement

James Patterson reported that IVC has come to an agreement with Central Union High School District that may streamline the English placement for some students. James said he worked with Kathleen and Norma Nunez to look at statistics from previous years. Students from the high school who score "conditionally ready" for California State Universities at the end of their junior year, and then pass a class in their senior year in expository writing with specially trained instructors can move right in to English 110.

Kathleen said that she was a little skeptical with the whole thing at first but after seeing the data she felt that the students were actually doing fine.

Judy mentioned maybe having an expiration date on the data because sometimes years pass and things also change.

James added that at this point the CUHS District is the only district in the county where all of their English 12 teachers have been through the training certification program in the expository writing class.

IV. Reports

Chair's Report

1. Kathleen wanted to share some information on the topic of class size. The district has proposed that the minimum class size for every class at the college to be changed to 35. We have quotas of 28 and 30. This is a pretty big work load increase.

Deirdre said there is lots of work involved in reading and grading essays. She mentioned that English instructors wouldn't be able to assign the students that many essays. Our writing program will not be as solid. It would simply be impossible.

David, who is on the negotiating team, David said class size increase is definitely something that they will be looking at this year, but the district is mostly driven by money.

Kathleen wants to keep this discussion up with email.

Kathleen also brought up the potential Aplia site license. She said it doesn't look good, but she is still working on it. Furthermore, she also just talked to a MySkills Tutor rep, and they might be phasing out MySkills at the end of this calendar year. Our current site license expires in September.

2. Reading Task Force

Audrey said the Reading Task Force met on Thursday. They review some reading programs at other community college. College of the Desert has lost as many classes as we have. The group will research more college reading programs and report back at the next meeting on May 14.

3. Academic Senate Report

Michael was not present at meeting, so there was no report.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01pm.