

# English Department

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## MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2017

2:50-4:00PM

Room 2721

### PRESENT

Bemis, Roberta  
Heumann, Olivia  
Morris, Audrey  
Sandoval, Angel  
Tirado, Xochitl

Cormier, Judy  
Howell, Kevin  
Patterson, James  
Shaner, Christina

Garcia, Olivia  
Lay, Nancy  
Rowley, Deirdre  
Simpson, Scott

### ABSENT

Baukholt, Robert

Spence, Cynthia

#### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:50pm by Chair Michael Heumann. Welcome back everybody. Michael also welcomed Angel Sandoval who is working as a full-time temporary instructor at both Imperial Valley prisons teaching ENGL 010.

#### II. Consent Agenda – April 10, 2016

**(M/S/C J. Patterson/R. Bemis)**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### III. Discussion & Information Items

##### 1. Beginning of Year Information

- Michael mentioned that sadly, Kathleen is on medical leave this semester. A big thank you to Scott, Christina and Rob for taking her classes and helping out with that.
- In regards to enrollment is concerned, Michael said that almost everything is full which is wonderful. We didn't have to cancel anything, in fact we added a lot of classes and all of the sections we added are full as well. We're basically where we need to be according to the reports Melody sends out regarding FTES. We're in very good shape as far as enrollment is concerned.
- Over the summer there were two big things from the department. One was a bunch of people went to an acceleration conference. The other thing was Michael spend a lot of time in the Assessment Center this summer reviewing Multiple Measure petitions. The way that students can use multiple measures to move up to ENGL 110 is that they have to submit a petition which includes transcripts and some other information. The English Department Chair has to go over there and review everything they have. Michael said he reviewed around 250 petitions. He was over there

every week. If their GPA was higher than 2.7 in high school they were moved to ENGL 110. There were a lot there that were lower than 2.7 and were petitioning to move up and on those he was a little skeptical about it. Students included a paragraph that they wrote to explain themselves. That gave a good indication on where they are at in their writing. Michael said that that helped him out a lot. Scott asked how some of the students were placed in ESL. Michael said he thinks it had to do with not doing that good on the Accuplacer. Their overall GPA is what Michael was looking at. He said that if they were in the ballpark figure of 2.5-2.7 he was sympathetic and went ahead and considered them for 110. Michael said that it was interesting.

- Michael mentioned that the Office Hour grids are due back by August 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Michael also mentioned about calling in absences and getting substitutes. Faculty need to let the office staff that they will be out before they have the sub in place.

## **2. Winter/Spring Class Selection**

Michael mentioned that winter and fall class selections have to be staffed by October 16<sup>th</sup> which means we have to move rather quickly to get this process done. James corrected Michael and said that it was winter and spring that we'd be working on! Michael agreed, it's spring not fall at this time.

## **3. Revised Course Outlines for English 008, 009, 010 and 110**

- Michael, Audrey and some other people have been in the process of revising course outlines for ENGL 008, 009 and 110. They kind of finished up the draft version. They were sent out to everybody. Michael showed the group ENGL 110. The main changes had to do with reorganizing the course objectives and better connecting the objectives from one class to the next. The language changed a little bit in some. We added a little more detail with the reading elements. The other thing that was changed were the SLOs. Different classes had different numbers of SLO's depending really upon what the objectives of the classes are. So for 110 we had three, one less than we had before. We kind of compressed all the objectives. He still wanted to revise the matrix before sending it out. Judy pointed out an error, Michael said that was what he wanted people to tell him about. Michael said that this was just a first draft. He wants feedback from the group, anything at all he said. He wants it back before they send them on to the Curriculum Committee and have them vote. Email Michael changes. Kevin said that at the SLO discussion the speaker told them that they don't need the objectives. Kevin asked James if he got the same thing from her. James said that what she was saying is the objectives are state required. SLO's we don't need them because our objectives are outcomes. James said that Learning Objectives are required by the state of California. Michael asked should we take our objectives and what we have for our SLO's and morph them into one thing, in a short version of that. Kevin said maybe we should just leave them alone. James said that he's been trying to tell people for 13 years, our learning objectives are outcome statements. We do not need to have a separate list of the outcome statement. Roberta

thinks we need the learning objectives alone. Michael said that we have no time table on this. Michael said that we would spend a little more time on this and maybe talk about it at our next meeting. James told the group that when they introduced SLO's to IVC in 2004 he was saying the same thing, objectives are outcome statements. In 2008 when Toni Pfister became SLO Coordinator she started saying that we had to have two separate things. It's just a matter of how we word them Michael said. They would be less specific and more general. James said that he thought that what Ms. Suskie was trying to communicate to us at the gym was that we need to stop thinking about what do we have to do and what do we have to have in this spot; it's what do our students need to learn, what's most important and how do we make sure that they're learning. We need to get back to the idea of teaching effectiveness and get out of the appliance mode. Kevin wants a list of clear things we need to have; currently it's very vague. Roberta had a question regarding the syllabus. She asked where are the requirements we're putting now even more additional stuff to students? Why have we adopted this habit of putting it all in the syllabus? One of the keys of having a good syllabus Roberta was taught in the beginning is to make it short and usable to the students. Now there's a plethora of information that is unreal. Michael told her that it's coming from the administration and that it can be brought up to the attention of the Academic Senate. Michael will talk to Mary Lofgren about it. Deirdre said that the information in the syllabus is all good stuff but not every student needs it.

- In parallel to all this stuff Michael said, because we're talking about the course outline and SLO's and revising them he thinks we should not collect data on SLO's this semester but in the spring because we're still kind of in flux. Personally he would like to have the new SLO's figured out than collect data on SLO's we're going to change anyway. So we're waiting to collect data in the spring and evaluate in the fall.

#### **4. Acceleration Report**

- Michael reported that Audrey, Deidre, Scott and Kaylene went to an Acceleration Conference in Valencia in July. Audrey has a report that she put together. She will email out the report to everyone. Why did we go? Developmental Education is generating attention nationwide, the problem being that a huge number of students never make it to the transfer level courses semester after semester. This is not true only California wide; it's true all over and it's true at IVC. Audrey showed some statistics. Also the new bill AB705 will mandate that we cannot ask students to remediate any more than one semester unless we can prove that they have a critical need. The burden of proof would be on us if students take any more than one semester plus our hands would be tied because we can only use the assessments that they say we can use. Audrey said that she had a chat with Sydney who was involved state level and she said that they were able to exempt ESL because language acquisition takes 5-7 years so they have a little bit longer but Basic Skills students will probably just have the one semester to remediate. If we're aware of this now that this is probably going to pass we can start making changes now.

- Michael shared that Cal State is getting rid of all their remedial classes. It's happening in a lot of community colleges including San Diego City College. They got rid of all their remedial classes. He's glad that we haven't done that because he'd like to see how it works for them. There's a lot of good things we can learn from acceleration. Deirdre mentioned that one of things that became very evident is that our demographics are different from their schools. She said like Michael said, we need to see what's working for them and then see what will work for us. Audrey said they do have recommendations but caution is the big one, making sure that these things work for our students. Michael doesn't want to make any changes yet until he sees what works. Audrey said they would like to pilot a two-unit co-requisite lab that would link with 110 so some students that are borderline could go into 110 with this co-requisite lab and have the same teacher for both so get the skills that they're missing while taking the 110 instead of taking 009 first.
- Audrey said that one of the things they looked at while at conference was placement data and student access. They were required to do homework before they went to the conference and find statistics. As an English Department she said, they all want to be involved. They were told they have no choice that we're going to multiple measures.
- Audrey said they found out at the conference that a lot of community colleges no longer have any developmental courses and they go straight to freshmen transfer level English and some of them are required to take the co-requisite and some of them aren't, any other plan would be years off. Michael said to bear in mind that ESL is still working on their versions of ENGL 008 and 009. Audrey said that ESL has a special designation. If they're going to say that our students can only take one semester of remediation but if you're an ESL student you can take six semesters of remediation. The way it is now, most students prefer to not be ESL students, they want to take ENGL 008 and 009. In the future they're going to be offered fewer semesters so do you think they would want to be labeled ESL students because they get fewer semester. Audrey said that all of these things impact each other.
- Scott shared something he learned from the conference. A big thing that he got from getting the Reading Certificate and seeing that again at the conference, were that there are multiple opposing points of view. So it got him into thinking that when he teaches 110 again, he going to use different ideas to make it a more enriching experience for the students. Audrey mentioned that another idea she thought of is having a site on campus to share ideas. Like they can put the ideas on CANVAS and let them know that this is what they're using and other people can use them too if they want to.
- Michael shared the course outline for ENGL 222, a course that he's teaching this semester. When he went in to put the course objectives he saw that it only had three! Ironically there not exactly the same as the SLO's.

**5. Tutoring Changes**

Terry Norris is retired but they're not going to be filling that position. Josue is going to be overseeing a lot of the tutoring and the big focus on the tutoring is going to be embedded tutors on their 61 different classes this fall.

**6. Non-Credit Research Course**

Tabled

**V. Reports**

**VI. Other**

Roberta has a sympathy card for Kathleen on the passing of her mother.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58pm.