

MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMPETENCY SUBCOMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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Office of the Academic Senate
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November 8, 2007

Members Present: R. Hansen (Chair), I. Basurto, K. Clement,
D. Hart, D. Nef.

Members Absent: T. Miller, K. Mountcastle, L. Zelezny,
M. Harris-Gums (student).

Visitors: None.

The meeting was called to order at by Chair Hansen at 11:00 a.m. in the University Center, Room #203.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 10/11/2007.

2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.

3. Communications and Announcements.

None.

4. Discussion and Revision of Upper Division Writing (W) Standards.

MSC to approve the revised Writing Course Requirements and forward to the Academic Policies & Procedures Committee for review.

5. Discussion of Upper Division Writing Exam and Grades in Writing Courses.

a. Dr. Nef read a report by Dr. Hendrix, English, who recognizes discrepancies between testing results and grading in W courses. Dr. Hendrix expressed concern for the wide range of disparate curricula and pedagogy currently in driving unarticulated W courses and warned . . . “the committee needs to think long and hard . . . in terms of how consistency across the board for W courses will be established, monitored, and enforced.”

b. The committee discussed the need for a WAC coordinator to manage any articulation of W courses.

- c. Dr. Nef reminded the committee that Writing Competency Subcommittee is charged with “establishing standards for writing competency expected of students at different stages in completion of the University’s writing requirements, including a time table for complying with those requirements.”
 - d. Members discussed calling for a thorough review of all W courses on campus.
6. Discussion of Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Position.
- a. Call for review of Provost’s decision not to run a tenure track search for a Writing Across the Curriculum coordinator on our campus.
 - b. Discussion targeted the need for University support in the teaching of writing, professional development for university instructors not trained in writing instruction, university-wide discussion and development of writing practices supporting the University’s vision of graduates living in the New California.
 - c. Members expressed concern about hiring a non-expert for this position.

MSC to adjourn. (12:00 p.m.)

The next scheduled meeting of the Writing Competency Subcommittee will be in the Spring 2008 semester. An Agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.