

MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMPETENCY SUBCOMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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October 27, 2009

Members Present: K. Putirka (Chair), V. Crisco, E. Hughes,
B. Sethuramasamyraja, S. Sivek, D. Nef, C. Ogaja.

Members Absent: None.

Visitor(s): E. Junn, Associate Provost

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair K. Putirka in Thomas Administration #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 10/20/2009.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.
None.
4. Writing Proposal Discussion – Associate Provost E. Junn.

Associate Provost E. Junn solicited suggestions from committee members regarding how we might change existing policies, and best spend special funds, so as to advance writing and critical thinking. E. Junn prefers to have a program that is broad based, emphasizing writing and critical thinking across the curriculum (rather than focusing funds and efforts in ENGL).

Committee members suggested using funds to support the following:

- a. Additional writing tutorial centers; perhaps consider creating college-specific or discipline-specific writing support centers (and ensure that writing support staff make suggestions, and not perform edits for students that seek help).
- b. Hire or nominate a “writing across the curriculum” person for each college or discipline. This person would help educate faculty regarding proven methods for advancing writing skills (writing rubrics, phrasing of questions, other teaching strategies, etc.).
- c. Eliminate upper division writing exam; substitute with a writing course in the discipline.

- d. Require exit portfolios (less receptive, as it is expensive, easy for students to cheat, unclear how it would be graded; could be used for university self-examination).
 - e. Require students to take their “W” course early, perhaps a registration block if the course is not taken prior to 90th unit, etc.
 - f. Expand use of ETS, automated grammar check program. Cost to students: \$10-15/student/year; good for all classes within this time frame.
5. Writing Rubric from the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU).
- a. Writing rubrics should be adopted for GE courses.
 - b. Consider proposal requests from departments as to how they might improve critical thinking and writing skills.

The next scheduled meeting of the Writing Competency Subcommittee will be Tuesday, December 1, 2009 @ 11:00 a.m., Thomas Administration #117.

Agenda.

1. Approval of the Minutes of 10/27/2009.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. Writing Proposal Discussion – Visit by Associate Provost E. Junn to finalize proposal for use of funds related to writing.
5. Should students fail a GE class based if they receive an F on the paper or papers related to the GE writing requirement?