

MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMPETENCY SUBCOMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
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Office of the Academic Senate
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December 1, 2009

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

Members Absent: C. Ogaja (excused).

Visitor: E. Junn, Associate Provost.

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

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 10/27/2009.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.

There were none.

4. Writing Proposal Discussion – Associate Provost E. Junn.

No further suggestions by the Writing Competency Subcommittee (WCC) regarding the proposed writing programs. Provost E. Junn will move forward with proposals given input from 10-27-09.

5. Should Students Fail a General Education Class if they Fail the Writing requirement?

General agreement that GE classes are not the appropriate filter.

However, 1) anecdotal data show that less than 1/3 of GE classes adhere to the iterative writing mandate, and 2) Provost E. Junn showed data that indicated Assistant Professors and Lecturers teach 2/3 of all GE classes campus wide.

These observations indicate that many faculty teaching GE are not aware of the iterative writing mandate. The committee agrees that:

- a. We need a mechanism to inform lecturers and new faculty that iterative writing assignments are required in all GE courses.

- b. We need to collect data from graduating seniors regarding their writing experiences while here at Fresno State.

Chair K. Putirka will write a set of questions to be posed to graduating seniors to determine how many students are given iterative writing assignments, and whether their self-assessment is that they receive useful feedback from professors.

The next scheduled meeting of the Writing Competency Subcommittee will be Tuesday, January 26, 2010 @ 11:00 a.m., TA #117.

Agenda.

1. Approval of the Minutes of 12/1/2009.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. Visit by Associate Provost E. Junn, to discuss results of survey of seniors regarding writing experiences.