# MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMPETENCY SUBCOMMITTEE

# CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

# 5241 North Maple, M/S TA 43

# Fresno, California 93740-8027

# Office of the Academic Senate

# Ext. 8-2743

# October 17, 2013

Members Present: R. Hansen (Interim Chair), D. Hart, E. Hughes, A. Inoue

The meeting was called to order at 2:00p.m. by Chair Hansen in Library Room 4172.

1. Minutes. No minutes to approve.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements
4. New Business
   1. Assessment of Modern and Classical Languages 106W course proposal
      1. Decided to return proposal to MCL for further revisions
      2. Dr. Hansen will contact MCL and meet with syllabus writers
   2. Discussion of temporary W (emergency--WE) courses as a response to W course bottleneck:
      1. Proposed to boost number of seats available so students can meet requirement
      2. Phase in seats available and link availability to number of units completed, higher the number, higher priority admittance. If students don’t meet requirement, will have a hold put on their registration
         * 1. Spring 14 more than 130--hold
           2. Fall 14 more than 120--hold
           3. Spring 15 more than 75-- hold
      3. Possibly eliminate ability to double count classes-- *option under consideration*
         1. Anthro. 105W
         2. Anthro. 116W
      4. Credit already existing GE courses that make use of writing as temporary W courses

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* + - 1. Creating “emergency” class-- WE
      2. Find classes that are close to meeting W criteria
         1. Criminology
         2. Psych
    1. Have teachers alter syllabi per Subcommittee on Writing suggestions, as well as attending Academic Senate discussion
    2. University Subcommittee would determine requirements for moving existing class to a WE class?
    3. Give teachers guidance on shifts in emphasis to W writing requirements-- possible workshop or two on writing, use of texts, etc.
    4. Give teachers instructional support-- readers, TAs
  1. Committee members comments
     1. Needs to go before Academic Senate
     2. First step is to get students to meet the requirement, then later develop Writing in the Disciplines approach for meeting UDWR
     3. Every Department needs to be on board with this
     4. Concern about how faculty will handle larger writing class demands
     5. Need for writing training for faculty
     6. This should be organized through the WAC program
     7. Concern that some instructors will be penalized for teaching writing classes in student assessments and how this may affect RTP status
     8. Departments may support a “160W” situation that is tailored to the Department’s specific discipline, would want English to teach those classes
     9. Teachers would need readers to help with paper load
     10. Some departments will be resistant because they believe some writing issues need to be addressed before they enter upper division course work
     11. Some departments will want grammar “taken care of” before they enroll in upper division writing course.
     12. Maybe start a few WID courses that require a specific GPA for enrollment
     13. This course could initiate students to study and writing in the discipline and this could involve work with the Writing Center

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* 1. Discussion of Fresno State Writing Programs Guidelines
     1. Needs further revision
     2. Language needs to be accessible to those outside composition studies discipline
     3. Further review of function and effect of the document
        1. Dr. Hansen will review and revise as time warrants

MSC to adjourn at 3:00pm

Next meeting: 2 P.M., Thursday, November 7, 2013, Haak Ctr Video CR 4172