

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 15, 2015

Attending: V. Crisco (chair), D. Austin, J. Chen, A Dinscore, D.
Hart, E. Hughes, J. Wahleithner

Missing: M. Brady, X. Fu, T. Wein

The meeting was called to order at 12PM by chair Crisco in HML
room 4164.

I. Minutes and Agenda Approved

II. Announcements:

- A. Discussed reasons for the W course requirements revision, particularly the questions we got about no more 3 week W courses.
- B. Kelli Kennedy from ASI had contacted chair Crisco about the lack of W course offerings in the disciplines. Chair Crisco will work with Ms. Kennedy and the committee to propose changes to W courses across campus.

III. New Business:

- A. Child and Family Science W course Proposal.
1. The committee thought the proposal was one of the strongest we had received in recent years. We thought it was good that the course taught the genres of the discipline, had a textbook about writing in that discipline, etc.
 2. The committee had concerns about several things, though, as well: 1) it was not clear how or when the instructor would be giving feedback to students. 2) We weren't sure which writing projects would go through multiple drafts. 3) We were concerned about the student created rubrics. It's not that we are against student created rubrics, but we were concerned that their rubrics would be different from each other's and different from the teacher's. We wondered if this would send a confusing message to students about what is required for a particular writing assignment. 4) The syllabus says that the rubrics used to evaluate students' writing will weight heavily on form. The committee feels that the rubrics should weight form and substance equally (while also recognizing that in some cases it might be good to weigh form over substance but not for every assignment). 5) It was not clear how attendance will weigh on the grade. It states that attendance is part of the grade but not clear how much it is a part of the grade.
 3. The committee agreed that chair Crisco can approve the revised syllabus as long as the proposers demonstrate that there are at least two assignments given that have multiple drafts, that the rubric for evaluation should balance both substance and form, and that there is a clear sense of when the instructor will give feedback.
- B. The committee discussed the revision to the W course requirements. Most of our discussion focused on the elimination of 3-week W courses. The committee agreed that these courses 1) cannot be as rigorous as a 16 week course or even a 6 week course, 2) that students should have a sustained process for learning how to write that gives them time to do research (and the teacher time to provide feedback and get revisions). Eliminating the 3 week requirement shows that the GVAR requirement is taken seriously, particularly since many of us hear that students who graduate from Fresno State can't write.

MSC to adjourn at 1:00PM

Next Meeting: October 22nd, 2015 from 12-1 in HML 4164