

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

November 7, 2013

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

The meeting was called to order at 2PM by Chair Hansen in Library
Room 4172

1. MSC to approve the Minutes of 10.17.13.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements
 - a. Writing Competency Subcommittee and Implementation of Proposal for Improving Writing on Campus
 - i. Announced, but not discussed since key faculty overseeing writing services on campus were on sabbatical.
 - ii. MSC to shelve the issue until the Spring 14 semester.
4. New Business
 - a. Discussion: Problems associated with UDWE, students failing to meet Upper Division Writing Requirement in a timely manner.
 - i. Advisors suggesting students wait and enroll in classes that “double count.”
 - ii. Students perception that the UDWR is a “hoop” to jump through, that it is an “extra” requirement that has little to do with literacy growth or competency.
 - iii. Because course offerings are limited, and because 70% of students who take the UDWE do not pass, a significant number of students are unable to meet the requirement in a timely manner. Currently there are not enough seats to accommodate the number of students who need to pass the requirement for graduation.

- b. Responses to problem
 - i. Need to boost number of seats offered to allow students to meet requirement
 - ii. Discussed setting a time line for lowering the number of units a student may have before a hold is put on registration.
 - 1. Spring 14 students with 130 units or more will not be able to register unless they address UDWR
 - 2. Fall 14-- 90 units
 - 3. Spring 15-- 75 units
 - iii. Send messages through My Fresno State warning students of requirement
 - iv. Possibly eliminating classes that “double-count” for GE and UDWR
 - v. Make use of existing writing intensive courses by adjusting curriculum, making them temporary W courses until Spring 15
 - vi. Create “emergency” W course that allows university to enroll more than 25 students.
 - vii. How to provide faculty with support for writing instruction, paper load.
- c. MSC to continue discussion at next meeting: Dec. 5, 2013

MSC to adjourn at 3:00pm

Next meeting: Thursday, December 5th from 1-2 pm in HML 4172