Language Arts Meeting Minutes for March 16, 2012

Present: Robert Barclay, Desi Poteet, Tim Cubero, Mary Segura, Annette Priesman, Laurie Tomchak, Jean Shibuya, M.J. Lewis, Lance Uyeda, Libby Young, Jill Dahlman.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Jean Shibuya. Robert moved to approve the Minutes, as amended, Mary seconded, and all voted to approve.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee – no report.

Vice Chancellor’s Advisory Council – Jean
Due to the renovations of three buildings on campus, many classes will be relocated next fall. Nancy has offered space in the library, provided that the space is used only during library hours, due to security reasons.

The library will still open in August, but the loss of financial records resulting from the fire in the quarry at UHM will delay the orders for the library’s public equipment.

Department Chairs are still working on fall scheduling, still trying to find locations.

V.C. Richard Fulton emphasized that the minimum enrollment for classes will be 15.

Language Arts faculty will be given a Webinar on Smart Learning. Jean will send out an e-mail to the department members to find out the best time to schedule it.

Faculty Senate – Mary

Chancellor Dykstra visited and talked about upcoming budget cuts and discrimination issues.

Senate members had questions about the procedures and policies regarding the WCC Discussion Board. (Robert responded that the procedures and policies had been developed and were in place. Mary will report back to SF.) New initiatives – anyone is able to post a new initiative anonymously, and this has promoted more response.

Each campus will have to deposit money into escrow accounts as a cushion. The accounts will generate interest, and the interest goes to the system, not to the campus.

Institutional Effectiveness Committee – Jean
The Committee met last Wednesday and received feedback from the different departments. After discussion, the Committee approved the proposed changes. The Committee will post AA degree preamble on the Discussion Board, and a memo will be sent concurrently to the Curriculum Committee and Faculty Senate.

Planning and Budget Council – Jean
Sixty-six budget requests were submitted. Every two weeks the committee goes through the requests. Language Arts requested funding for a full-time English instructor. LA is in contention with other departments also asking for positions. After the Council members go through each request, they will prioritize.
Writing Advisory Board – Robert
So far 15 WI classes have been proposed/scheduled for fall. The spread across times and disciplines looks good, but the Board would like more courses offered.

Hiring Committee – Robert
The Hiring Committee has been tasked with filling the position of Dean I, which was vacated when Ardis was hired for V.C. of Student Affairs. The Committee will be using questions from prior interview process, but Robert asked if LA members had any thoughts or questions to offer. Experience in the area suggested.

Old Business
Proposal for Immersion Japanese course. After discussing the proposal with Akiko and Dean, it was decided the course should be experimental, to see if there’s interest. The purpose of the course is to expand Japanese language skills in both the social and workplace arenas.

Lance moved, Robert seconded, all voted to approve.

New Business
Jean - Following our last department meeting, several English faculty members met to discuss revising course descriptions for Eng 22 and Eng 100 at WCC.

The descriptions were read, discussed, and edited, and the following was proposed:

English 22 – This course prepares students for college level writing with practice in the writing process, instruction in grammar and mechanics; emphasis on effective paragraphs and essays; and introduction to research techniques.

English 100 – a college-level composition course involving critical reading, the writing process, rhetorical principles, research strategies, and the documentation of sources.

Robert moved to approve, Lance seconded, all voted to approve.

Lance – Following up on Janine’s e-mail reporting her meeting with LCC/HCC to discuss aligning English 8 and 18:
Currently, WCC’s Compass scores are: 0 – 48 (English 8) and 49 – 55 (English 18). In order to align with HCC/LCC, WCC would need to lower Compass score by 3 points. Action tabled until next department meeting.

To align with HCC/LCC, it was suggested to add the following SLO to English 8: “summarize main ideas from paragraphs and short articles.”

Robert moved, Lance seconded, all voted to approve.

Announcements – Jean shared that Convocation and the Closing the Loop meetings are mandatory for half and full-time faculty, per Doug. Attendance is taken.

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.