Language Arts Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2013

Present: M.J. Lewis, Audrey Mendoza, Janine Oshiro, Desi Poteet, Annette Priesman, Laurie Tomchak, Jenny Webster, and Libby Young. Guest: Ryan Perreira.

Call to Order: Libby called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: M.J. moved to approve, Janine seconded, and all voted in favor.

Committee Reports:

Vice Chancellor's Advisory Council—Libby

Libby reported that the Council reviewed the schedule for Fall 2013. She asked everyone to please review the schedule as soon as possible and report any discrepancies. CRNs will be assigned, and more than one CRN section may be assigned to certain classes to identify freshman cohorts.

Please e-mail Spring 2014 schedule requests to Libby by Friday, February 15.

Due to the possibility that the buildings currently being renovated may not be completed on schedule, we may not be able to move into our designated Language Arts building in Spring 2014; this continues to create a classroom shortage.

Please e-mail any questions for the VCAC committee to Libby.

Curriculum Committee (CCAAC) – Janine

Janine reported that the Committee will be meeting Tuesday, February 12.

Faculty Senate—M.J.

M.J. passed out notes from the 2/5/13 meeting. Highlights included:

Rick, from security, reported that the new security firm has been in place for the past three months. The firm is planning to conduct emergency drills beginning this semester. Security wants the drills to be a surprise, so that it can assess the success of the evacuation response, but faculty have requested that notice be given so they can better prepare for scheduled class activities. A drill will be scheduled for lower campus on one day, the LLC another, and so on. The drill will be scheduled for the last 10 minutes of class to minimize impact. Each class will have a captain.

Patti (system-wide policy committee) requested that each department prioritize four issues. After discussion, the members agreed to the following:

1. Lifelong learners vs. college degree earners: competing for class seats
2. Grading policy: should grades include +/-?
3. Suspension policy: applied system wide or campus-by-campus; students can retake classes in which they earned D & F grades, but original grade stays on transcript.
(Currently, WCC does not compute old grade into GPA, but the grade remains on the transcript.)

4. Grade forgiveness: students could apply for a one-time forgiveness to remove D, F, and W grades from the past 4-5 years.

Paul (ACCFSC/CCCFSC) discussed creating a common course number system-wide to make transfer between campuses easier. There was unified agreement across the board that 80% of the SLOs and Objectives should be the same.

MJ asked if SLOs should be included.

Janine moved to include SLOs, Audrey seconded, and everyone voted to approve the motion.

The mandatory freshman cohort proposal will be placed on the Discussion Board for feedback. The cohorts could provide important support for incoming freshman; students could graduate in two years by taking 4 courses per semester.

*Istitutional Effectiveness Committee—Libby*

No report this week.

*MaPSAC – Lance*

Nothing to report.

*Distance Education Committee – Lance*

Lance e-mailed the following report:

At today's distance education committee meeting, we set the agenda for the rest of the spring semester, and one of our first tasks will be to review and unify distance education (online, in particular) assessment processes and paperwork, including:

- Settling on a single format for online peer evaluations and drafting guidelines for peer evaluations of online courses.
- Reviewing/revising the course evaluation form used by online students
- Deciding on whether we need mandatory syllabus content for online courses, and if so, what that content is.

We will also work on creating best practices/FAQ documents for online students and teachers, and discuss whether/how to target online students (and teachers) with some of the resources that are now flowing to retention/success efforts for students in regular face-to-face classes.

The committee meets every other week, so we should be able to respond in a fairly timely way to any questions, comments, or suggestions the department has. I am happy to have fun e-mail exchanges or meet with anyone who has a concern or question.

*Planning Budget Council – Libby*

Libby shared a poem she wrote that highlights our department’s dire budgetary needs. It will be read at the PBC, which meets at 2 p.m. today.
Foundations Board—Annette

Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for February 11.

Developmental Education—Janine

Janine reported that the system-wide developmental education representatives met to discuss the dev-ed courses currently offered in the system. The goal of the group is to create a system-wide sequence to provide consistency in course names, CRNs, and SLOs to mitigate problems when students transfer from one campus to another.

Janine handed out the report and asked for feedback regarding the focus of the SLOs, particularly in the areas of writing process, coherence in main idea and support, comprehension, and mechanics—areas where the group hopes to establish common ground system wide. In addition to system-wide SLO agreement, each campus can include additional SLOs to address other areas, such as study skills.

Janine pointed out that recent department discussions suggest that reading comprehension is an important component of writing success, and that current research supports integrating reading and writing for student success, at all levels.

Old Business:

No updates at this time.

New Business:

Guest: Ryan Perreira

Ryan invited Members to consider inviting him to their classes beginning in Fall 2013, so he could present 1-2 mini workshops to help students be “job ready.” In the workshops he plans to focus on helping students identify their preferred learning style, identify their personality colors, and create a professional working résumé. The résumé could be uploaded, if desired, into a job board. The job board links students and employers in the community and currently has 700 employers and 9000 students on board.

Members expressed an interest in Ryan offering a session during Excellence in Education day for interested faculty.

Roundtable Policy Discussion: Attendance, Late Work, Plagiarism

Members shared policies and procedures regarding attendance, late work, and plagiarism.

Announcements:
Libby announced that Ka Ohana will be available on February 11 and encouraged everyone to use it as a resource.

Audrey announced that there’s a Speech Debate Club on campus. It currently has 10 students and meets the first, third and fourth Fridays from 2-4 at TRiO. The Club will be debating
students from UH and HPU on March 16 on four issues:
1. Facebook should be deleted; 2. Mandatory standardized testing should be eliminated;
3. marijuana should be legalized; 4. Schools should bring back corporal punishment

Janine announced seven students and Janine have formed the Poetry Club at WCC. The Poetry Club and Youth Speaks Hawaii are sponsoring a 10-week, Slam Poetry workshop for students and teenagers. It will be held Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in Palanakila 213.

Janine announced two upcoming Out Loud in the Library events:
“We Go Jam in the Library.” Thursday, February 21.

Thursday, March 7’s event includes graphic novelists visiting from Portland.

Desi announced that Rain Bird’s launch will take place Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.