Language Arts Department Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2013

Present: Robert Barclay, Jeannine Buckley, Kalani Meinecke, Audrey Mendoza, Desi Poteet, Annette Priesman, Susan St. John, Akiko Swan, Laurie Tomchak, Lance Uyeda, and Libby Young.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:37 a.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the September 20, 2013 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports:

Vice Chancellor's Advisory Council—Libby

Libby reported that Doug asked department chairs and administration to share his notes on the accreditation process with WCC constituencies. (Libby forwarded Doug’s e-mail to department members on 10/11.) In preparation for the upcoming accreditation visit, please review points. Doug recommends that if any member of the accreditation team has a question to refer them to Jan, Ellen, or Ardis for access to relevant documentation.

Brian has asked for feedback regarding offering 8-week classes during spring and fall semesters. Members discussed the possibilities for creating 8-week courses based on current full semester courses. Let Libby know if you think your course might work.

If anyone is interested in offering a course during summer session, contact Libby.

Curriculum Committee—Janine

The Curriculum Committee met on September 24 and October 8.

Via e-mail: Janine reported the Committee approved the new course HWST 296: Special Topics in Hawaiian Studies. This is meant to be a flexible course, similar to our literature courses, in which we announce specific topics for culture, genre, and history.

Currently, IS 103 Intro to College is listed under Social Sciences, but there is a lot of discussion about its future home. This points to a larger issue about the home of all IS courses, which are interdisciplinary in nature. Look for this issue on the Discussion Board.

Modifications to ACC 201 and ACC 202 were approved. Changes were made in the catalog descriptions and prerequisites to align with UH Mānoa.

Faculty Senate—Janine

Via e-mail: Faculty Senate met on October 1 and approved the new course HWST 296: Special Topics in Hawaiian Studies.

Dave Krupp asked for suggestions to improve the public relations image of the UH system. He will take any suggestions back to the Off-Campus Committee, so if you have something to contribute, please let Janine know.
Institutonal Effectiveness Committee—Libby

Libby confirmed that there will be an all-campus meeting on Information Literacy on Friday, October 18, 2-4 p.m. in ʻĀkoakoa 101-105. All members are encouraged to attend. (This was subsequently rescheduled to October 25.)

MaPSAC—Lance

The committee has not yet met.

Distance Education Committee—Lance

Jan Lubin visited the committee and said WCC should be assessing 1-2 online courses each semester; each online course should be paired with a face-to-face course for comparison.

Vanessa Cole gave a presentation on her online course at the Distance Education Hui on September 25. Subsequent presentations will be offered at various days and times, depending on the presenter’s schedule.

Planning Budget Council – Libby

Libby passed out part of a preliminary draft of the department report and a success chart; members discussed success rates for students and ways to improve completion rates.

Members shared that many of their students are balancing school, work, and family responsibilities, in addition to overcoming challenges of homelessness, poverty, addiction, learning challenges, domestic violence, and other difficult life realities. These issues, despite a student’s best intentions, often create barriers to successful completion of classes.

The department agreed that more support services for faculty in the classroom is needed.

WCC faculty are required to attend the WAC Institute prior to teaching WI classes. It was noted that not all WI faculty require conferences with students enrolled in WI courses, even though this is a system requirement under WI guidelines. It was suggested that offering workshops could provide ongoing support to WI faculty.

Developmental Education—Janine

Janine and Jenny are attending an all-day Developmental Education Committee meeting today.

Old Business:

Brian is working on the various problems associated with the bookstore not being fully stocked at the beginning of each semester.

New Business:

There will be a remedial/developmental meeting on Friday, October 18, 9-10:30 a.m. to discuss concerns and strategies. Members shared that student challenges regarding dyslexia, ADD,
ADHD, mental well-being, behavior, lack of preparedness, balancing personal responsibilities, to name a few, adversely affect student learning.

Announcements:

Book orders are due October 15.

Annette will be holding punctuation workshops on Tuesday, October 22 10, 11, 12, 1 (50 minutes each); the writing workshop will be closed.

Audrey announced the speech debate tournament will be held in ’Ākoakoa 101 on Saturday, October 26, 9-2. Judges must arrive at 8:30.
The topics will be:

• Round 1: The U.S. should not provide weapons to rebel forces in Syria
• Round 2: The interests of national security outweigh the right to personal privacy

Libby announced that the new Ka ’Ohana will be available October 21.

Upcoming department meeting dates:
• October 25
• November 8
• November 22
• December 6

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.