

Developmental Writing Department Meeting

Minutes: Friday, November 20, 2009

HBC 206/ 1-3:00 p.m.

New AVP: The new AVP for College Access and Success Programs, Dr. Stephanie Hawley, attended the meeting to introduce herself and to get familiar with our faculty.

Workshop update: Jenifer stated that there was a low turnout at the Pinnacle and Rio Grande campuses, but the Northridge workshops from 1-3pm had a very high turnout. The question was asked if any instructor wanted to teach a workshop from 4:30-6:30pm on M-F. Please let Jenifer know if you are interested. A paragraph and essay organization workshop will be planned for spring 2010. Additionally, students would like workshops on test taking strategies and time management.

Accuplacer update: Deanna and a couple of other instructors attended the THECB Accuplacer seminar this semester. Our instructors were asked to take the test as students. At that time, it was noticed that some of the answers to the questions were incorrect. Also, it was discovered that if the first few questions were answered incorrectly, the following questions got easier. The vocabulary on the test was a bit advanced for our students.

Cutoff Score Ramifications: There is discussion about raising the cut scores from a 5 to a 6 in English. If this takes place, how will we accommodate the increased enrollment of students who will then fall in the developmental writing bracket? We need to come up with some solutions.

Clarification: Tutors for English are not allowed to write on student papers, but they are encouraged to do so with DEWV students.

Tutorial form: Revised to indicate which paper the student is working on and to allow for specific instructions.

P/F scale: After review and discussion, the semicolon will be considered a major error. This will be implemented for the spring 2010 semester.

End-of-Semester Prompt: Language was added to include the following statement: In an essay to be read by a classroom instructor, persuade your readers to accept your position for or against this issue. Support your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples. This statement will be included on all essays effective Fall 2009 final exit essay.

The following spring dates were shared:

Beginning of semester meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2010, HBC 212, 4-7:00 p.m.; Spring Break: March 15-21, 2010; Midterm date: M, March 29th-Th, April 1, 2010; Midterm Grading Session: Saturday, April 3, 9-noon; Department meeting: F, April 23d at HBC, 1-3 p.m.; Final exit exam date: F, May 7th/ Grading Session, Saturday, May 8th 9-noon.