

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 Fax: 278-5745

September 15, 2009

Members Present: K. Putirka (Chair), V. Crisco, E. Hughes,
B. Sethuramasamyraja, S. Sivek, D. Nef, C. Ogaja.

Members Absent: K. Mountcastle.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair K. Putirka in Thomas Administration #117.

1. Minutes. MSC to approve the Minutes of 4/28/2009.
2. Agenda. MSC to approve the Agenda as distributed.
3. Communications and Announcements.

D. Nef notes several activities related to the committee's work, esp. conversion of CETL to C-SALT and an effort to develop strategies to facilitate writing across the curriculum, and critical thinking. Associate Provost E. Junn is working on a proposal for writing strategies, and will visit the committee at our next meeting.

4. Election of New Chair.

MSC to elect K. Putirka as Chair.

5. Limit of enrollments of 25 students in "W" courses; following Academic Policy Manual.

The 25-student limit for W courses is noted in the APM, p. 216. Course enrollments have increased in a number of writing-intensive courses, due to our obligation, as noted by D. Nef, that we must serve students who were admitted to campus for f2009, before the university was certain of its budget situation. As a temporary solution, D. Nef believes that the 25-person limit may be exceeded (according to "C4 guidelines" noted in the APM (p. 216)), for the spring 2010 semester, but that the excess number of students should be close to 25, and that faculty who are asked to teach courses in which these limits are exceeded should be provided support where possible (e.g. in the form of Teaching Assistants to assist grading of papers) and in proportion to the excess of students. V. Crisco affirmed there is a decrease in quality of writing samples as enrollments increase, as indicated by research, and Nef agreed that in fall 2010, the university should be in a better position to adhere to the 25-student

limit, as enrollment numbers of new students will better reflect the university's ability to offer W courses without eroding quality.

The next scheduled meeting of the Writing Competency Subcommittee will be Tuesday, October 6, 2009 @ 11:00 a.m., Thomas Administration #117.

Agenda.

1. Approval of the Minutes of 9/15/2009.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Communications and Announcements.
4. Writing Proposal Discussion – Associate Provost E. Junn.