

Minutes of the LPWG

Wednesday December 3, 2008 – 3 p.m.

Pioneer

In attendance: Maria DiPalma, Nick Proctor, Nancy St. Clair, Murphy Waggoner, Del Shepard, Bailey Harris (student), Kedron Bardwell, Jim Thorius, Cyd Dyer, Amy Doling, Steve Shafer, John Bolen, Sharon Wilkinson, John Pauley

Jim Thorius began the meeting with a discussion about the First Year Experience and how this seminar connects with EWG and transfers. Conversation was held regarding Todd Lieber's recommendation for students who do not meet the English requirement being enrolled in Eng. 201. Also the First Year seminar should be optional for transfers and EWG was another idea discussed.

Maria DiPalma said there's always the messiness of the transfers coming in the spring already – would additional courses need to be staffed if required of all students?

Kedron said we could put in a note that states the First Year course at Simpson College for transfers and EWG will be addressed later.

Amy Doling agreed saying that Walter Pearson had also said a note should go in the document so it's not argued out on the floor of the faculty.

Murphy said that even with a note that at least one faculty member will argue from the floor.

Information Literacy was discussed next and it was noted that those disciplines that need it most will benefit the most from this.

Maria DiPalma agreed and said that different courses might address differing contextual needs according to the discipline.

Nancy St. Clair said that most of the students come in with such weak writing skills.

Steve Shafer had a question about the concept of general education vs. the major program. He asked if we were running the risk of prescribing for the major courses. He felt we need to know prescriptive limits.

Murphy Waggoner said that there are some things that each major should be required to have. Murphy then asked if it was the will of the group that it come out of the first year seminar and then become two stamps.

John Bolen then said he had a comment/question that he didn't know if it had anything to do with what we're talking about - but is plagiarism a correct topic for information literacy?

Amy Doling said an idea is to create a tutorial for the students in plagiarism and perhaps rather than scanning to check in at the beginning of a term, they complete the tutorial.

Kedron Bardwell then asked if we wanted to say of the two stamps for Information Literacy that one needs to be in the major.

The group agreed with Kedron that this is a good idea.

Murphy said that we should encourage the departments to put in as many stamps as possible, but only 2 stamps per course will be allowed.

Maria then said to forgive her because she'd missed many meetings, but she asked if we were leaning toward having courses that would attract certain bodies of students or a general theme that might fit any student.

Murphy said that she and Amy Doling had talked about this and that if too generic, it wasn't compelling to the student.

Amy added that this first course should hook the student into learning.

Jim Thorius said that this should also be their first serious writing class.

Questions were reviewed regarding topics and whether they would need to be monitored. A point was raised that some May Term classes currently do not receive much interest. Murphy replied that the cynic in her says that persons offer May Term classes that don't attract students to ensure the class does not go.

Jim Thorius said that an approach could be several courses around a broad theme.

Credit hours then were addressed.

Agreement from the group was that all LAS courses would be 4 hours. Nick Proctor said that the classes might only meet 3 hours a week and then use the extra time for individual or small group meetings.

A question was raised as to whether fall convocation would be required.

The group felt that it didn't need to be a part of the document.

Maria DiPalma noted that an edict can still come from Student Development or from the Academic Dean's office (separate from this document) that freshmen are required to attend an event.

John Bolen thought we should add stamps back to the First Year courses. He further stated that this may appear complex to some people, but it will be the easiest in the world to program.

“Regarding what’s the hook,” he continued, “we can tell the students what they can get out of a course.”

The group felt that since we eliminated Information Literacy from the First Year, then we can stamp the First Year course with the two stamps left. All LAS (First Year) courses will carry a WR (writing) and CT (critical thinking) stamp. Also, we will increase these two for number needed by 1 each.

Meeting adjourned. Group will meet Wed. Dec. 10, 2008* at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelly Priebe

*Note: As Shelly broke arm in a fall Dec. 9, there are no minutes for Dec. 10.