

HUMANITIES DIVISION COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 2:15 p.m., H-305

Present: Tom Lew, Susan Bachmann, Darrell Thompson, Elise Geraghty, Mimi Ansite, Mary Ann Leiby, Evelyn Berman, Carmen Sotolongo, and Elena Savina (recorder)

Recommendations for Full-Time Positions for 2016-17

T. Lew reminded council members that recommendations for F/T positions used to be the chief agenda item for the fall council meeting; however, the timeline for new hires has been advanced. As an information item, then, Lew distributed copies of the proposals that were submitted to the Full-Time Faculty Position Identification Committee for F/T faculty in English and Spanish for next year. According to the enrollment and full-time/part-time data for Humanities, the FT/PT ratio is 64/36 in English. Enrollments rates are quite high. As a result, the Humanities Division is requesting three full-time positions in English for 2016/17. The Spanish program reports a 56/44 FT/PT ratio. Council members endorsed the proposal to request one full-time position in Spanish.

Student Equity Plan (SEP) and Division Proposals

Lew distributed information on student equity and invited members to brainstorm ideas to utilize district SEP funds for this year, about 1.7 or 1.8 million dollars. The members supported funding a second tutor and expanding hours for the Writing Center. Lew welcomed members to create SEP proposals for future projects.

SLO Update

The Humanities Division SLOs are continually reviewed and updated. E. Geraghty reminded the faculty that SLOs are current and available on the division's web page as well as in the Humanities Division office.

Noncredit Courses and Changes in Funding

Lew informed members that CDCP (Career Development and College Preparation) noncredit courses are now funded at the same level as credit courses, providing a financial incentive to develop courses in the noncredit mode that prepare students for jobs or provide academic skills for success in college-level courses. Council members discussed different avenues in creating such courses, among those, ESL classes, enrichment courses for older adults, and basic skills lab courses.

Common Assessment Test

Lew explained that the Chancellor's Office, in implementing the Common Assessment Initiative, is developing a common assessment system for all community colleges. A version of the common assessment test is being piloted by Santa Monica College. After the test has been selected (it will cover math, English, and ESL), each institution will be able to establish cut scores. Council members agreed that research will be needed on this subject when the test is announced sometime next year.

Other Items

Council members voted to support the initiative to install shelves in student restrooms. The request will be forwarded to the maintenance and facilities department.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.