

## Reading Department Meeting

### Minutes

11-15-2011 (modified 11.22.11)

California Reads – great program for colleges and high schools, great books and a book discussion

- Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> author of Farewell to Manzanar will be on campus to talk about the book from 1-2 in the Alondra Room.
- Also can read a free first chapter online! Teaser ☺ website + sample lessons online! See handout in your box!

Suzanne Gates needs volunteer rep from Reading faculty for the Division Curriculum Committee.

DRP justification for purchase beautifully written by Kathy Hall – thank you!

\$4400-\$4700 cost and they will be ready for Spring semester ☺

#### Desk Configuration in Reading classrooms

Some people want rows, but others want U shape

During testing – week 8 and week 15 and 16 – be understanding/patient

Previous discussion from Reading meeting minutes 10/14/10

*“Student desks are sometimes moved during midterms and final exams. While the division policy is for desks to be moved back to their original configuration at the end of class, there may not be enough time or people power to move them back since students leave the class at different times during these two testing situations. Your colleagues ask for your understanding in this matter, particularly if you need to move the desks back to their original configuration.”*

Opinions in the room:

Get over it, it's no big deal. Get the students to move them. It's done.

What is the primary issue? Cheating? Can we convince this group of people to use a cover sheet as they take the test and the teacher needs to take a look around.

If someone is hell bent on cheating, there's not much we can do to prevent it.

Rows set an atmosphere of seriousness -This is college. You need to do your own work. Some teachers notice a difference - students are more alert when in rows.

Rows deter students from talking and interacting -- especially for English 82 students.

Teaching is fine with the U, but for high stakes testing, rows are better.

During testing, there are going to be some differences. What about the rest of the semester? If we all agree that this U configuration that was voted on, what happens when a teacher moves the desks? Who is responsible for moving them back? The one who moved them...

**OUR CONSENSUS:** If full class stays full two hours and puts room in rows, then full class puts them back at end of class. If class takes a midterm/final and they leave one by one, at the end a solo teacher is not responsible to put the room back. The new class coming in can pitch in to help and put the desks back.

Holiday Party --

Mercedes Thompson will host the party for Xmas at her home in Manhattan Beach – Friday evening, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> roughly 5-9pm. Parking isn't the best, so try to carpool! Also, it's a potluck so bring something delicious 😊 Plus karaoke! Jeff Jung?? Jeff McMahon, you are nominated to perform a song as well 😊 Maybe a duet with me (Stephanie)!

Recorder: Stephanie Schwartz