

ESL MEETING MINUTES  
April 20, 2017

**In Attendance:**

Debbie Mochidome  
Evelyn Uyemura  
Nitza Llado  
Jenny Simon

Jelena Savina  
Allison Carr  
Elise Geraghty (interim dean)  
Brent Davis

Rebecca Loya  
Matt Kline  
Maribel Hernandez (counselor)

**Announcements**

- Active Shooter Drill, May 3, 9:40 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. and 7:10 p.m. and ending at 7:20 p.m. – Elise reminded faculty what to do and what to tell students during Active Shooter Drill. Also, she said that Humanities’ classroom doors are not able to open if a belt is tightly secured around the metal elbow that protrudes from the top of the door hinge.
- College Night, April 26, East Dining Room, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. – Volunteers are still needed to represent the ESL Department.
- SERP deadline, May 9.
- Academic Award Ceremony, May 16, East Dining Room, 5:00 p.m. – Elise encouraged faculty to attend and stressed how important it is for the Humanities’ award winners to see their teachers at the ceremony.

**SLO Business**

ESL 52A, SLO #4 Discussion for Action – Evelyn led a discussion about the low results of ESL 52A’s SLO #4. This ESL SLO requires 52A students to understand parts of speech and to identify which vocabulary word form should go into the correct place in a sentence. Faculty made a few suggestions for how to help students do better, such as giving out a parts-of-speech handout that was created by Jenny and Rebecca a couple of years ago, continuously teach the parts of speech and their corresponding suffix endings throughout the semester, and have brown bags and meetings towards the beginning of the semester to agree on the number of questions to be asked for each SLO and to discuss strategies that could be incorporated in lessons.

**Curriculum**

- 53C to 1A transition – Elise shared four essays from ESL students who are currently in English 1A. The 1A instructor expressed concern that these ESL students have not been adequately prepared for English 1A. Elise noted that this is not exclusively an ESL issue; it also applies to English A students moving into 1A, but the English consistency projects have been addressing the issue.
- There was a lengthy discussion about what is and what isn’t possible for ESL students to master. Some faculty pointed out that the students could have fixed many of the errors had they reviewed their essay carefully before submitting; students also had other writing problems, such as those related to specific sentence-types related to discussing literature. Matt suggested that the Department consider what other ESL programs do at other community colleges: having a panel read final essays and decide whether students have

the skills to pass. He explained that this method takes pressure off individual instructors, an often daunting responsibility. Everyone agreed to participate in upcoming brown bags regarding this new strategy. In regard to textbooks, Elise and Jenny shared that Diane Hacker's 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *Rules for Writers* is excellent, includes instruction and examples about MLA formatting, and includes an online exercise website.

- Acceleration model possibilities – Jenny discussed possible accelerated ESL course combination models that could encourage ESL students to take ESL 52C. These included:

In one semester, students take:

- ESL 52C (16 weeks)
- ESL 53C (1<sup>st</sup> 8 weeks)
- English 1A (2<sup>nd</sup> 8 weeks)

AND/OR

- ESL 52C (16 weeks)
- ESL 53B (1<sup>st</sup> 8 weeks)
- ESL 53C (2<sup>nd</sup> 8 weeks)

The second model seemed to be more popular. Elise expressed strong reservations about an 8-week 1A for ESL students as it is very challenging for high-performing native speakers. Potential complications were discussed, and Allison suggested that Jenny contact Pete Marcoux or Rosanne Cerofeci to ask about their experiences dealing with accelerated English models. Jenny suggested that the above models could be offered as hybrid courses. This would lessen the Division Office's burden of finding classrooms.

### **Humanities' Dean Update**

Elise announced that a new Dean of Humanities should be announced soon and the first day he or she would start will be July 1<sup>st</sup>. Elise's position as Interim-Dean would revert to Associate Dean until someone is found to replace her, at which time she will go back to teaching full-time.

### **English 1A for ESL Students Flyer**

Maribel Hernandez passed out a flyer with the list of English 1A sections that are taught by ESL instructors. She hopes that this flyer will help guide ESL students to register for one of these sections rather than English 1A sections that are taught by non-ESL instructors. The division has several instructors who are qualified to teach both English and ESL, and these classes are typically taught by these instructors.