

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
Minutes November 7, 2008

PRESENT: Patricia Alvarado Lee Chen Monica Colon Dan DeJong
Tracy Fung Marty Furch Marcela Gomez
Juan Gonzalez Lynne Henson Carol Lowther Nimoli Madan
Jose Luis Ramirez Jerrie Raymer Shayla Sivert Gary Sosa
Colleen Weldele

GUESTS: Gabe Sanchez

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 A.M.

ANNOUNCEMENT—ITEM NOT ON AGENDA

Lee announced that the Department has hired a new full-time Assistant Professor. His name is Lawrence Lawson. Lawrence is finishing his graduate degree. He received his Bachelor's degree in 2003 and went to work in Ukraine for two years for the Peace Corps. Lawrence is scheduled to begin on January 20, 2009.

PROPOSAL BY THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT'S LIAISON TO CHANGE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

Lee introduced Gabe Sanchez, the ESL Liaison from the Counseling Department. Gabe shared that Counselors work with students to develop educational plans to fulfill their goals to transfer, get their AA degree, etc. However, there are times when Counselors deal with students who pass ESL 36, but they don't feel welcomed to move on to ESL 101. The students feel that they are not being allowed to be enrolled in ESL 101. Gabe shared that for native English speakers Counselors have the ability to call the Assessment Office and make course recommendations to place students into certain levels. He explained that such recommendations are made based on multiple measures and if the Counselor feels the change is warranted then they email the Assessment Office with their English or Math recommendations. Gabe mentioned that currently such policy does not apply to ESL students, so he asked if such policy could be made available to ESL students. Marty answered that beginning Fall 2009, ESL 36 will be a prerequisite for ESL 101, thus, the issue of blocking students with the Compass Test will be resolved. Gabe wondered if this will be the same case for students going from ESL 103 to English 100. Colleen responded that at this point she doesn't know how the Department can make ESL 103 a prerequisite for English 100 because we are dealing with two different departments. Also, some students who can pass ESL 103 may not be able to manage English 100; thus, some students really need to take English 50 before taking English 100. Gabe presented a case about a student who would like to take ESL 101 in Spring 2009. The student passed ESL 36 and took the Compass Test three times, but has been unable to place into the ESL Academic Program. Marty suggested that the student be recommended to go see the Department Chairperson and write a petition to be allowed to take ESL 101 or take the Challenge Test. Shayla asked Gabe to refer students with similar situations back to the Department because teachers know the students and their specific situations. Under the idea that students have the "right to fail," the Department decided to clear the student for ESL 101. If the student contacts us, Lee will forward the student's information to the ESL Office staff so they can enter the student's eligibility. Patricia added that students who are under the same circumstances as the one presented by Gabe should all be given the same information by all the staff members with whom the students communicate (teachers, coordinators, office staff, student specialists, etc.). Shayla suggested that the ESL 36 teacher be the main point of contact for the student(s). If the student

is not satisfied with the answers obtained from the ESL 36 teacher, then he or she should be referred to the Coordinator and/or the ESL Department Chairperson. In that way, the ESL 36 instructor is always included in that conversation. Gabe asked the Department that if we ever have a student who is dissatisfied with the service he or she received in Counseling, we should report the student's name, ID number, and the Counselor they saw to the Counseling Department Chairperson, Tim Hernandez.

BSI PRIORITIES FOR ESL DEPARTMENT

Gary wanted to talk to the ESL Department about how they can be involved in: Learning Communities, tutoring, Professional Development and the First Year Experience. One of the projects of HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution) is to start Learning Communities at Palomar College. Gary wondered whether the ESL Department wanted to participate in this project. The instructors who participate in the Learning Communities will receive a stipend of approximately \$750. Marty mentioned that she would be interested in creating a Learning Community with the VESL class linked to any of the areas taught in VESL such as Auto Technology, Graphics, etc. Shayla mentioned the possibility of linking the 8:30am ESL 36 with a Counseling 110 for Fall 2009. Colleen wondered whether some type of research could be conducted to find out what other courses ESL 36 and ESL 101 students take during their first year at Palomar. This information could be used to find other classes to link with ESL courses and develop a Learning Community. Gary added that in order to start a Learning Community for Fall 2009, the Department needs to talk to the Counseling Department to find a class that will fit the schedule of the ESL 36 class. Next, Gary explained that the HSI grant will be providing the College with money for an Activity Director who will be planning First Year Experiences classes, Learning Communities, events, Counseling support, etc. Gary wondered whether the ESL Department wanted to develop materials, a class or a separate orientation for ESL students. Marty requested to have the people who attended the First Year Experience Conference to present some models to the Department to see what is being done at other colleges. Gary shared that when he went to a conference in Memphis he saw some First Year Experience models. These models mostly involved state Universities and were mainly designed for native English speaking students. There were also some boot camp type summer models where students came in for a week and participated in different activities. Gary defined the First Year Experience as being for people who are right out of high school and going on a completely academic path. He added that although immediate action is not required regarding First Year Experience and its relation to ESL students, the Department should be ready to send a representative to any meetings called by the Activity Coordinator. Next, Gary informed the Department that at the end of April and beginning of May the new ESL Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) will be opened. One of the main functions of the TLC will be to offer Tutoring for the different Departments: English, Reading, Math, and ESL. He reported that the BSI Committee has been visiting each Department. Various Departments have submitted their proposals with numbers, activities, and equipment of what they would like to see done to either improve their existing tutoring or to supplement something they will be doing in Escondido. Gary believes that the ESL Department should become involved in terms of creating a system of developing our idea of what we would like our tutoring to look like, who our tutors will be, who will supervise them and how they will be selected and trained. The Department should submit a proposal to the BSI Committee. Tracy would like tutoring to be scheduled around the ESL classes. Marty suggested making tutoring a requirement for all our classes. Gary suggested submitting a proposal that asks for release time for an instructor who will be involved in the development of this project. Marty believes there should be a tutor in the TLC at all times. Tracy, Nimoli and Shayla volunteered to write the proposal and prepare something for December's Department meeting. Next, Gary asked the Department what kind of Professional Development opportunities we would like to see or what we can offer. Marty mentioned that there's PD for teachers as well as PD opportunities for

students. Thus, we could put together a proposal explaining what types of topics we can offer students. Gary added that in the TLC there will be a conference/class room which is meant for workshops and supplemental instruction. The ESL Department can use this room to offer peer reviews for ESL 34, for example.

EAP CONCERNS

Shayla expressed her concerns about having a class made up of mainly EAP (Early Acceptance Program) students. In the future, she would like to have those students equally divided among the two ESL 36 classes offered in the morning program at San Marcos. She would like to propose that we follow the same procedure as we do for International Students by capping the classes so that we can control how many EAP students are enrolled in each class. A suggestion made by the Department is that since the 8:30am time frame seems to be popular, we should offer two ESL 36 classes at 8:30am for Fall 2009.

LECTURE/LAB ISSUE

Lee mentioned that levels 1-36 are affected by the lecture/lab issue. However, the issue for the credit ESL levels is trickier to solve than for the non-credit levels. In addition, the lecture/lab issue also impacts the teaching load. The lecture/lab issue needs to be resolved by next year because it will go into effect in the year 2010. The Department discussed various ways of splitting the hours into a lecture component and a lab component. They explored the idea of increasing the number of units. However, increasing the units would impact many students. The Department will continue to discuss this issue at later meetings.

SLO UPDATE

Marty, Shayla, and Colleen informed the Department that they were meeting after the Department Meeting to discuss the SLO issues that the Department had previously identified to solve.

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Lee informed the Department that based on the Governor's budget announcement it is very likely that there will be a mid-year budget cut. Therefore, the class sizes going into Spring 2009 will be carefully monitored by the Dean and any small classes will be in danger of being cancelled. Also, there will not be a COLA raise this year. Secondly, level 3 students are currently working with the ESL Specialist to help them transition into credit ESL 34. Next, the Foreign Language Department invited the Department to attend a demonstration of a modern language lab system at 1pm in F-7. Lee announced that there may be travel money available through HSI and BSI. He will provide more details at a later date. Lastly, Lee proposed having a Full-Timers Meeting after December's Department Meeting to discuss course selections for Fall 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 A.M.