**ESOL DEPT MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 12th, 2015**

**1)  Student Success Results and the ESOL Scorecard**

The results that we have from the District show that in the last two years, more students are reaching and succeeding in college-level courses than they were in the past.  With acceleration and the new curriculum, students who move quickly through the reading/writing program (take only A courses) do well.  Those that take more time to go through the program (take both A and B courses) aren’t as successful.

We’d like to see this data tracked for a longer period of time to see more students who eventually do succeed and how long it takes them.  We’d also like to see how the educational background of our students correlates with their success in our program.  We also want to know why students stop out or drop out in various places. How do we encourage students not to stop out?  Studies show that students who don’t stop out, who take classes consistently, have more success.  Laney is trying to hire an institutional researcher, which would be great for us so that we could get someone to answer these questions and analyze this data for us.

Lisa summarized the Student Success Scorecard compiled by the State.  This scorecard is based on students tracked for six years through the 2013-2014 academic year who first enrolled in a course below transfer level in ESOL during 2008-2009 and completed a college-level course in the same discipline, in our case ESL 52A/B.  Laney ESOL had been flat at about a 19% success rate for quite a few years, but we’ve jumped up to 25.3%, which is phenomenal.  We attribute this jump to all the hard work that instructors have put in to implement the new curriculum.  The state average is 27%, so we’re getting there.  Chelsea mentioned that she’s heard that students who attend both CoA and Laney know our reading/writing program is strong, so they’re opting to take their classes here.

**2) Department Chair Elections/Other Announcement from Dean Chan**

There is only one nomination for ESOL Department Chair: David.  Ballots for the election were mailed out yesterday (5/11/15).

Dean Chan congratulated us on our 6% increase in our Student Success Scorecard.  This is a tribute to all our hard work with the acceleration model.  Dr. Chan deeply respects all that we’re doing in our department.

Dean Chan loved Rick Robinson’s books that he published of his students’ work.  Dean Chan would love to get to know more of us.  He is collecting work of faculty members--books we’ve written, etc.  He’d like to put them on display.

**3) ESOL Acceleration Community of Practice**

There are two reading/writing levels, HB and Advanced, that have gotten no support yet for participating in the Acceleration Community, so because there are 8 HB R/W instructors and 4 Advanced R/W instructors who want to participate in the fall, to be equitable, they should be funded first.  To give those teachers the same support as those at Intermediate and High Intermediate have gotten in the past, we’re asking for a commitment of 50 hours from the HB and ADV instructors and the stipend will be $1,500 each.  So the total for all 12 instructors would be $18,000, and the Foundation Skills Committee approved this amount. There’s not any money to support Intermediate and High Intermediate instructors for fall yet. Lisa and Suzan are participating in grant writing that could result in funds for the other two levels. They won’t know if we’ll get the grant until August.  That’s where we are now in terms of funding. We still have to find other pieces, but Lisa hopes everyone feels the decision on who to fund in the fall is equitable.

**4) SSSP Early Alert Committee**

Nikki is on a district-wide committee to set up an early alert system. It will be a way to flag students who are having difficulties (academic, emotional, mental, behavioral) during the semester. We’ll be able to make these alerts on Passport. You can first contact the student, but there will be a box on Passport to check various difficulties that a student may be experiencing and a counselor will take action. This will be piloted in the fall at the four colleges. There will be way to make contact with the student and get counseling - so hopefully this will be helpful to students. There are IT people at the District who are working on making the Passport piece work.

**5) CATESOL**

Christine went to CA-TESOL with Meryl Segal from English Dept. “Promoting a Common Core for Academic Success” was the theme.  Christine said it was interesting to see so many sessions were so similar to what we are doing. One session: Engaging English Learning with Novels in the Common Core Era.”  The presenter was an English teacher in Texas at the border. She went through many activities to scaffold “The Circuit.” Many students identified with the book - children of farm workers. Christine also went to an “Academic Vocabulary” session. Contextualizing everything with vocabulary, but the presenter never answered the question about why aren’t students using new vocabulary in their writing? Christine and Candace went to Meryl’s “Rap” session. It had to do with AB 86 and Meryl has a handout on this.

CHRISTINE’S ANNOUNCEMENT #1**:** Christine’s TA in her HB Listening/Speaking class is going to apply for the Faculty Diversity Internship Program, and she thinks she is going to get it. She is looking for a mentor from the ESOL Department and the mentor has to be full-time. If you are interested in mentoring a new teacher, and getting paid for it, contact Christine.

CHRISTINE’S ANNOUNCEMENT #2**:** Christine presented on how to teach grammar from the context of a novel at the last English Department meeting.  She started with a 6-step lesson of recognition of adjective clauses to production.

**6)  ESOL Cohorts**

The ESOL Department has four cohorts. The High Beginning Cohort now has three cohorts/parts, going from HB Grammar and HB Listening/Speaking in the first semester to HB Reading/Writing and Intermediate Grammar in the third semester. The fourth cohort for fall is going to be Judy Wong’s Advanced Reading/Writing course paired with a 1-unit Library research course.

Students can’t register for cohorts on Passport.  They have to contact Steve, Judy or Suzan for directions on how to register.  If you know of any students who would benefit from the HB or ADV cohorts, please contact one of these instructors.

**7) New ESOL Full-time Positions**

There are two new full-time, tenure-track ESOL positions now posted on the District Human Resources website.  The deadline to apply is May 29, 2015.  Any applicant who now teaches or has taught at a Peralta College in the past is guaranteed a first round interview.