FYW Program Assessment Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2015

Following are the minutes for the latest FYW meeting. Please contact me with any revisions.

Meeting Called to Order: 2:40pm


Absent: Nicole Blair, Jeff Fitzgerald, James Liner, Janie Miller, Andrea Modarres, Amy Whitcomb

Agenda Items:

Discuss the Summer Program Assessment Readings (July 2-3)

- The Summer Program Assessment Readings will take place in CP 206C from 9am to 4pm.
- Payment has been arranged for everyone.
- Kelvin, Tre, and Tori from the TLC will be attending.
- Everyone should bring a laptop. The second day will be all electronic. Next year will be entirely electronic due to a significant increase in samples.
- A folder will be created for file storage. A dozen samples will be needed to present a range of what students have been asked to produce to Bob Broad. Everyone should find 1-2 average examples, including multimedia presentations, which may include something interesting or problematic (optional). This will be used on the first day to create a dynamic criteria map which will be introduced on the second day.
- This year’s data will be used to inform conversations and help assess the program for next year as well as to inform grading practices and teaching.
  - What we value.
  - How we might understand the characteristics of that valuing in developmental aspects.
- Data will not be used in class, pedagogically, this year as that use was not included in the consent forms. This may change next year. Samples may be used in the classroom following consent from the students.
- Anyone within the FYW group should be able to use the data for publications, co-authored or solo.

Discuss the Stretch Syllabus Workshop (July)

- The FYW Stretch Syllabus Redesign Meeting will take place on Thursday, July 30th in GWP 320 (Lucien Boardroom) from 9am to 5pm. This will include a working lunch.

Discuss Failure Data

Asao: The data for 112 looks similar to last quarter.

Alison: Six students are repeat failures. Many are due to mental health issues.
Ali and LeAnne: Students barely pass 101 and then fail 112.

Asao: Is there any part of your curriculum or pedagogy that might cause problems for the students? When multimedia is introduced there can be a learning curve, creating twice the work to learn the program that will do what the student wants.

LeAnne: Class participation is 25% of the grade. Students may miss a reasonable amount of time (under two weeks) and still pass.

Ali: Students are lost on the research paper. They either do it poorly or not at all. Students are more motivated in Fall. What works then does not work in Spring. A non-traditional approach works better than traditional in Winter.

Asao: Will this affect the Fall-Winter and Winter-Spring stretch courses? There will be more students taking Spring. If they can’t get into the Fall stretch course, they may wait until Winter. Those starting in Winter may have a higher failure rate than in Fall. It may help that most should be in the same class with the same teacher.

Kelvin: Is it possible that the students are trying to avoid writing in the beginning?

Alison and Caitlin: Students have a difficult time turning in their first big project. They’re told about it in the first week with six weeks to prepare. When they don’t do the scaffolding (readings, revisions, big writing assignments), they do poorly.

Asao: Would it be profitable in the stretch syllabus redesign to consider grading contracts? A grading contract web page will be added to the UWP site this Summer with resources and an FAQ. We can discuss the contract for the pass/fail first course. The other contract would simply incorporate grades. Experience has shown that contracts don’t change the failure rate, but it will help with students who are multilingual or have difficulty reading. Hard workers will shine. Students collect data on their weekly labor with a spreadsheet to view as they proceed. The contract is based on labor: “Do this much work and you get the grade.” Labor logs are non-judgemental and ungraded. It’s a reflective device that provides data on what’s happening in the class. Students will need weekly reminders or they will forget.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:30pm