

Learning Lab Department Meeting
January 13, 2010
Room B1-28G, 9:30 AM

Attendance: Ed Adolphus, Paul Bonila, Gail Chaskes, Anne Francis, Ellie Furstenberg, Jay Howard, Lilla Hudoba, Hank May, Gary Mitchell, Joan Monroe, John Nace, Craig Nelson, John Pinto, Garvin Poole, Otis Stevens, Julieta Thomas, Ted Wong

Information:

The transfer of SACC to the Learning Lab department has been finalized, and this department meeting included faculty from both of the formerly separate departments.

John Howe has assumed the duties of Acting Dean of ESS for Spring 2010, and the hiring committee is continuing its search for a new dean.

Enrollment is up in CAP B classes creating some problems with space. Anyone who wants to offer workshops or study groups should check room availability with Mary Yannuzzi.

Reports:

The hiring committee for the Full-time Science/Math position has met and chosen applicants to interview and written interview questions. The committee will begin interviewing next week and hopes to conclude its work by the end of Spring 2010.

The hiring committee for a Reading/Writing VL for Spring 2010 interviewed three candidates in December and sent names forward. Dean Howe is interviewing them this week.

Ellie Furstenberg, ESL, and Anna Seixas, science, have been given VL positions for Spring 2010.

Discussion Items:

Ed Adolphus presented an ongoing problem concerning unauthorized printing on a particular, expensive color printer. Although established policy for this printer is that it be used only for college projects and that it is primarily for student use, professors in the art department have often used it for non-school projects. This practice is very costly, and because it uses up essential supplies which are ordered based on class enrollment, often leaves students unable to complete their projects. The practice has been possible because professors have their own passwords and can log in and use printers when and as they choose. When Ed has removed paper and ink to disable the printer and prevent unauthorized use, people have been able to gain access to his office and to supplies stored there. A number of remedies for this problem were suggested: have faculty printing sent to the duplicating center, block direct access to the queue and ensure that all work goes through Ed, charge departments for faculty expenses. It was also suggested that a strongly worded memo be sent out every semester explaining the policy, and the expense and the negative impact on students that occurs when people violate the policy. Ed said this had been done at least once, and it did reduce the practice some.

Ted Wong described a system for interactive video tutoring that he will be experimenting with this semester. The advantages of such a system are that it will give

distance education students access to tutoring, and it will give students access to tutors working on other campuses. He has ordered web cams and headsets and will start the experiment by setting up a station at one of the regional labs. Students will be able to call the West Lab's receptionists, make an appointment with Ted, and work with him via Skype.

John Pinto asked "Given the new composition of the Learning Lab, should we consider a new name?" There was some discussion but the consensus was that it is too soon to make that decision because we're moving to a learning commons model and the new dean will want be involved in such a decision.

Julieta Thomas asked that the department consider solutions for problems with the current system for reserving the Learning Lab's designated computer classroom. John Pinto suggested that this item be considered at a future meeting.

Department meetings were scheduled for Professional Development Day, February 16, at 10:00 (the time to be confirmed later) and Friday, April 30, at 10:00. The March meeting will be scheduled at the February 16th meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Francis
January 26, 2010