

English Department Update for 2007-2008 Strategic Goals and Actions

Strategic Goal: Improve ELA registration processes and planning (1.3)

Strategic Action: *Develop an ELA orientation (1.3)*

An orientation was developed by two adjunct faculty members and 7 students participated in the first one (spring 2008) and with slight modifications that orientation was used for Pre-Ac orientation in the summer for 37 students. It was determined that the students who most need the orientation are students new to the U.S., not necessarily those new to ELA. The students arrive for ELA chronically late so that the start of the semester is rushed and focused on catching up. Further investigation is needed into what would motivate students come to the college early for registration and orientation.

Strategic Action: *Develop an ELA manual (1.3)*

A process and procedure manual outlining ELA coordination was created and is housed in electronic form in the English Department. This includes the placement process as well as policies for troubleshooting unusual situations.

Strategic Action: *Provide additional capacity for ELA students (1.3)*

The students are notorious for registering late in the ELA program, and that did not improve this year; however, a set of evening sections had established to handle to manage overflow. Three had such low enrollment the week prior to the beginning of classes that they did not run, but one gathered an enrollment of 5 and another of 11. Despite the number of closed classes, enrollment is up 21% in the program (fall to fall).

Strategic Goal: Work with area high school to create a bridge from high school to college (1.3)

Strategic Action: *Invite area high school faculty for dialogue (1.3)*

4 areas school districts were approached. Anamosa took up the invitation to join Kirkwood faculty at the Iowa Community College Teacher Roundtable. Four teachers came to campus for two afternoon sessions and reported it was useful, and very similar to the discussions among high school teachers, particularly how to encourage students to read and to read better. When planning 6 months in advance, no common dates were found for discussions. Shelby attended the Iowa Council of Teachers of English, and Heal attended the UNI week-long workshop for first time teachers of college composition with an eye for mentoring Marnie Kounkel, the teacher for the new Solon on-site Composition I class. The Kirkwood English Department also undertook a study of PSEO comparability and one of our high school partners joined six other full- and part-time faculty to read and assess student essays.

Strategic Goal: Support faculty members engaged in professional development

Strategic Action: Increase the number of English Department members engaged in professional development and KCELT activities by 5% 2006-2007. (1.2 & 1.4)

The awarding of 2 Endowed Chairs, 2 Professional Development proposals funded, 11 faculty participated or presented at conferences

50% increase in Endowed Chair awards, 50% decrease in Professional Development proposal acceptance, 22% increase in conference participation, 86% of faculty participated in at least 2 KCELT sessions and 4 were super users (multiple sessions, presenting, and a circle, square or learning community), a greater than 5% increase.

Strategic Goal: Set learning environments in state-of-the-art classrooms (1.5).

Strategic Action: Train faculty to use ScreenWatch software.

Three additional teachers were trained. When the department asked for additional copies of the program to be installed in computer classrooms, we were asked to determine a college-wide standard for this type of software. Two new software packages will be piloted this fall.

Strategic Goal: Employ emerging research, technologies, delivery methods and modes

Strategic Action: Provide workshops in video clip use in English classrooms. (1.5)
Dom Franco provided three sessions, two in the department and one in KCELT. 5 faculty attended the sessions.

Strategic Action: Conduct research into needed pieces to create an English major.(1.3)

This investigation triggered a college-wide discussion of the purpose of majors, concentrations and programs. The investigators determined that the technology exists, that the Regents institutions have recently posted the 2+2 and new transfer guides which will be mined to determine the advice that would be given Kirkwood English majors depending upon. The department is undertaking a review of goals and outcomes for the curriculum to further the discussion of what it would mean to transfer as an English major.