# English Department Meeting – 10/09/2020

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## Start: 1:00

## End: 2:41 pm

Meeting called by Department Chair, Amy Lynn Trogan

**In attendance:** Amy Trogan, Thomas Mohundro, Scott Ortolano, Jeremy Pilarski, Jill Hummel, Cara Minardi-Power, Michael Barach, Mark Massaro, Jason Calabrese, Sara Dustin, John Pelot, Eric Ivy, Catherine Gooch, Katie Waddell, Brandi George, Leonard Owens, Mary Vaughn, Jennifer Grove, Amy Dohm, Marty Ambrose, Laura Tichy-Smith, Gus Cameron, Laura Price, Susan Calhoun, Ihasha Horn,

**Excused:** Rebecca Harris, Shawn Moore, Ellie Bunting

**Absent:** David Luther, Suzanne Biedenbach, Thomas Wayne

## Call to Order

## Writing Center Update--Dr. Katie Waddell and guest Laura Price, Senior Coordinator, Academic Support Programs

## Update from Laura Price

## The Writing Center is currently working with students on essays in synchronous and asynchronous formats.

## We are using QLess to manage the session registration process for synchronous sessions. In these sessions, students participate in a Zoom consultation and then receive the consultation document afterward.

## In asynchronous sessions, papers are submitted via email, and the feedback and consultation sheet are also delivered via email.

## Traffic has been slower right now, but we are expecting it to pick up as the semester advances.

## The new system has been going well so far, and we are surveying students who use our services to make sure that they are satisfied with their experience.

## We will keep Zoom and drop off tutoring post-pandemic because it’s allowed the Writing Center to expand their operations.

## The Writing Center locations are still physically open for students, though all tutoring is occurring virtually.

## Virtual workshops are now available, and there are also a number of resources for students on Canvas.

## Writing Center staff members really like the *They Say / I Say* Textbook:

## We have had many students come in with the Template of Templates assignment.

## Asks a question about how strictly they should stick to the assignment guidelines when working with students.

## General response: students don’t need to adhere to the template in an overly strict manner. The biggest thing is that their work must reflect the skills that the assignment and template call for.

## Dr. Waddell

## Has gotten great feedback from students who visited the Writing Center.

## Please encourage students to use the Writing Center and sign up to receive the consultation sheets.

## You can also take advantage of the Writing Center’s Canvas tutorials by importing them into your Canvas courses, having students view the video resources, and then requesting that they complete the response activity.

* + - This is the link you can provide your students for access to the Writing Center’s synchronous QLess registration system and the asynchronous drop-off service**:** <https://www.fsw.edu/academicsupport/writing>

## Dual Enrollment Update--Professor Jeremy Pilarski

## Reviewing and creating new assignments so that DE faculty can teach in a way that reflects our standards, but also works for them and their students.

## Providing weekly updates to DE teachers to keep them in the loop. Please remember that they are facing their own challenges during the pandemic.

## Portfolios are coming up for DE Instructors. One of the big emphases is making sure that they are all teaching the required content, etc.

## Will be working with Dr. Minardi-Power and Dr. Van Gaalen to develop surveys that will help us think through some of our processes and practices to make sure that all of the DE instructors’ needs are being met.

## QEP Update--Dr. Gus Cameron

## Committee currently split into subgroups.

## Looking at whether or not we want to add a capstone program to curriculum, whether to integrate projects into the gen ed program, whether to have each discipline integrate the QEP into their own courses, whether or not to initiate a broader community project, etc.

## Asks a question about the sort of transdisciplinary work English faculty are doing already and the ways in which our courses already have transdisciplinary elements.

## A variety of ideas are shared:

## Dr. George

## Mentions her work with the theater and science programs in her writing courses.

## Suggests campus-wide projects oriented around specific themes that each discipline can meet in their own way.

## Prof. Vaughn

## Talks about the value of guest spotting in peers’ classes

## Discussion occurs about whether the OBOC committee and the book it chooses could be folded in as well.

## Dr. Minardi-Power

## Explains that FYC courses and rhetoric are inherently transdisciplinary enterprises. In particular, Comp I offers fertile ground for embedding these types of projects and assignments—perhaps in the form of a capstone assignment.

## Relays that many Writing Across the Curriculum programs have been shifting to Communication Across the Discipline programs.

## Dr. Hummel notes how she has had students create a multimodal blog capstone project in her introduction to literature courses.

## Dr. Waddell outlines service-learning projects as a way of working with the QEP and effecting positive change in the world.

## Prof. Horn proposes the current honors capstone project as a model that could be used.

## Prof. Pelot discusses how he pairs his creative writing courses with other disciplines and how the emphasis he has been focusing on (the hero’s journey) is particularly well suited to such an endeavor.

## Prof. Ivy reviews how he uses Monsters as an organizing influence in his Composition I courses, and those sorts of endeavors provide ample opportunity for transdisciplinary communication.

## TLC sessions on this subject will be coming up.

## People in general mention their excitement about the upcoming QEP.

## ENC 1101 Text Selection Update--Dr. Amy Trogan

## Note for the spring:

## If you are teaching Comp I and not using the official textbooks, please email Wendie Thompson and CC Dr. Trogan with your book selection for the spring.

## A new edition of the textbook is coming out, and we need to think about whether or not we would prefer to stick with the old adoption since MLA has not been updated. It is just something to think about for now.

## Assessment Update--Dr. Cara Minardi-Power

* **The AY 2020/2021Gen Ed Assessment Plan is underway for “Communicate” and “Evaluate”**: courses for gen ed assessment have been selected and emails have been sent. Professors Bailey, Miller, Hughes, Lehrian, Schriner, Power, Compagnucci, Pilarski, Massaro, Calabrese, Riis, Cantlon, Bishop, Trogan, Dustin

The assignment provided can have any due date during the fall semester\*, but **we ask that you confirm the following information for the assignment no later than Nov. 1st.**

- If the representative assignment is in Canvas, please reply to this email confirming which assignment in Canvas you intend to provide as representation and our staff can extract unscored student submissions from that assignment.

- If the representative assignment is hard copy, please provide assignment title, due date, guidelines/instructions for the assignment, and any other details you feel might be important for an independent scorer to review submissions (e.g. rubric, scoring method).

-We also ask that students have included their ID# in the submission.

-The Office of Academic Assessment will offer assistance such as making copies of the submissions so as not to impede of your scoring for the course.

\*Canvas assignments can have any due date during the fall semester. If the assignment selected will be in hardcopy form, however, please make sure that the due date of the assignment is November 1st or later. 

Offer to field any questions about the process and/or direct them to Joe van Gaalen, Elijah Pritchett, or Team AASPIRE for additional questions.

* **Promote the LAC Professional Development Session on October’s PD Friday**: Friday, October 23, 2020 at 10:00am - 11:00am there will be a discussion panel on the “Communicate” competency; the same day at 11:15am - 12:15pm there will be another panel on “Evaluate.” This will be a chance for faculty to learn more—especially those who have been selected for assignment samples. Faculty can register on FSW’s TLC website.
* **Syllapalooza is underway:** in spring, LAC and AASPIRE will be hosting sessions with deans and chairs to review course learning outcomes. In preparation, review your own course learning outcomes, review the CREATIVE acronym, and discuss with chairs and among each other how well their course outcomes fit the content of their courses. We will be working on this throughout the academic year.
* **Communication will be holding a series of transdisciplinary workshops:** This six-session workshop series, “Communication Matters,” will focus on best practices from the Communication discipline. These sessions will address strategies to effectively engage students by offering techniques and strategies from the Communication discipline. See the schedule below, or contact TLC for more information (note that the titles may change, but the dates will remain unchanged).
  + **Communication Matters Series**
  + · “Listening: Strategies for Faculty and Students” by Professor Katie Paschall (January 22nd)
  + · “Nonverbal Communication and Zoom Netiquette” by Dr. Jennifer Summary and Professor Jamie Votraw (January 22nd)
  + · “Best Practices in Oral Presentation Delivery” by Professor Katie O’Connor and Professor Roy Samuelson (February 26th)
  + · “Immediacy Behaviors and Student Engagement” by Dr. Ann Eastman and Professor Katie Paschall (February 26th)
  + · “Teaching students how to cite sources in APA Format” by Dr. Bill Kelvin (March 26th)
  + · “The Importance of Intercultural Communication in the college classroom” by Dr. Jennifer Summary, Dr. Alessandro Cesarano, Professor Dani Peterson, Professor Roy Samuelson, and Professor Katie O’Connor (March 26th)

## Faculty Updates and New Business

## Dr. Trogan

## Due to the pandemic, we have quite a few students who are really struggling. Please make use of the early alert system so that resources can be directed to those folks.

## Some faculty members explain that they are having trouble getting a response from the early alert program, though this is uneven.

## Dr. Tichy-Smith- covers how she embeds surveys and resources about students’ well-being within her courses.

## She will share more about this in next week’s Community of Practice in English.

## Some fantastic TLC sessions are coming up. Dr. Teed especially wanted us to make note of the ADA session that is forthcoming.

## We will need to revisit the wording of some of our writing-intensive syllabi—more information will be forthcoming on this.

## Dr. Barach has been doing great work on this front with the Creative Writing courses.

## Prof. Bunting is working hard to update ENC 1102 (Essay) courses to make them more effective for students. The knowledge checks in particular are being improved.

## Dr. George

## The *Illuminations* creative writing journal is on the comeback trail!

## Prof. Owens and Prof. Massaro are working as editors with Dr. George.

## A call for papers will be going out shortly, and it is shared in the meeting’s chat as well. Please pass it along to your students and encourage them to submit their work.

## Dr. Minardi-Power

## Notes that the October PD Friday days (there are two this month) have some really fantastic assessment and communication sessions on the docket. Please see the lineups in the training calendar on Oct. 23rd and 30th: <https://www.fsw.edu/trainingcalendar/display>

## Please check out this “Fairies and Demons” episode of “The Monster Professor” podcast, which features our very own Dr. George and Dr. Trogan: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/fairies-and-demons-with-amy-trogan-and-brandi-george/id1434115131?i=1000493304343>

## Everyone congratulates Dr. George and Dr. Trogan on their fantastic work. The episode is amazing!

## Dr. Ortolano—

## The next meeting of the Community of Practice in English is from 9:30-10:30 on the 16th. The topic is the progress and pitfalls that folks have had during the brave new world of the pandemic semester. Here is the TLC calendar registration link for the next meeting: <https://www.fsw.edu/trainingcalendar/register/11416>

## The digital pedagogy reading group, FSW’s first asynchronous reading group, is now up and running via Microsoft Teams. We are currently discussing issues that should be of real interest to English faculty—student data, privacy, and ethics in relation to ed tech programs in general, plagiarism check software like Turnitin, and test proctoring software like Proctorio. If you are new to the group, there is also a great introductory article on digital pedagogy, writ large. You can register for the group and obtain the link to our Microsoft Team’s page via the TLC’s training calendar: <https://www.fsw.edu/trainingcalendar/register/11567>

## The October meeting for the Community of Practice in Instructional Technology is coming up this Monday (the 12th)! As usual, the session will run from 2:30-3:30 and will take place over Zoom.

## During the meeting, Prof. Chemical Kim (aka, Kimberly Hilton) will discuss how she uses hands-on science activities and iPad applications to enhance her students' learning experience.

## The abstract for Prof. Hilton's presentation is below and attached, and you can register for it by using the following link: [https://www.fsw.edu/trainingcalendar/register/11327](https://www.fsw.edu/trainingcalendar/register/11327Adjournment)

* + - The second iteration of FSW’s new “Advice from the Front” series is coming up from 11:15-12:15 on October 23rd. This session will focus on successful strategies for participating in the life of the college while carrying a full 5-5 teaching load. Presenters will draw upon their experience leading important committees, coordinating events and developing resources for students and faculty, and/or doing other important work on behalf of the college. To help provide a diverse array of perspectives, the session features speakers from a variety of disciplines, each of whom has contributed to the college community in their own distinct way. Here is the training calendar link: <https://www.fsw.edu/trainingcalendar/display>
    - Our very own Prof. Leonard Owens will be leading an extended PD Friday edition of a Community of Practice in Instructional Technology presentation from 3:30-4:30 on October 30th. This session is titled “My Students Aren't Doing the Reading!”: Using Canvas to Create Effective Reading Activities for Any Discipline, and the presentation will cover methods for creating activities in Canvas that allow students to demonstrate they’ve not only looked at an assigned reading but also deeply engaged with it on multiple levels. Here is the training calendar link: <https://www.fsw.edu/trainingcalendar/register/11495>
  + Dr. Grove asks a question about COVID updates—where updates can be acquired, etc.
    - The “10@10” video updates are suggested
    - Dr. Mark Bukowski, the Dean of Students, is also referenced as a great resource.

*Notes taken by Dr. Scott Ortolano*