

**ENGLISH CLUSTER MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 19, 2011**  
**1pm**  
**Development Day, LW Campus**

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**ITEM 1. Introduction of new Faculty**

**ITEM 2. Proposal for new course offering – Trinna Frever**

Discussion: Dr. Frever proposed a course titled “Children's and Young Adult Literature.” It's designed to follow the objectives and outcomes of other literature courses in the department.

The objectives and outcomes will require that the course include historical coverage of the genre (origins and development of children's literature as a literary category). Historical context will be emphasized alongside historical coverage. Specifically, the shifts in sociological and psychological beliefs about children's minds and children's role in society across the last two centuries, and the impacts of those shifts on the genre, will be included.

Dr. Frever clarified that the course will include both children's and young adult literature, with "young adult" defined roughly as 11 - 14 years of age. The course will use individual texts rather than an anthology (at first), but the cost of individual books in children's lit is generally low, meaning that the overall cost of the course texts will be comparable to other literature courses.

In addition to broadening the English department's offerings, this course would make an important contribution to the College's strong Elementary Ed program and Nursing programs, and would be an important addition to those students' transcripts.

Action: The cluster unanimously approved the course proposal and Dr. Frever will take the proposal to the curriculum committee.

**ITEM 3. Follow up to spring discussion of student preparedness for EAP, PREP and ENC 1101 – Dan McGavin**

Discussion: Problems:

- No common language between EAP, PREP and ENC 1101
- Placement
- Create a unified, measurable, and consistent set of learning outcomes for all three courses; they are conflicting, overlapping, and confusing.
- There are 10 adjuncts for every full-time faculty teaching these courses. Need to work with adjuncts to insure consistency in all courses.
- Need a common rubric to measure student learning that provides different levels of achievement for each of the three courses.

**Action:** A committee of EAP, PREP and ENC 1101 faculty will be formed to address these issues. The District-wide Assessment Committee has already approved the project. The committee will report back to the cluster by the Spring Development Day meeting.

**ITEM 4. Enrollment issue with ENC 1101 6/8 week online courses – John Ribar**

**Discussion:** Professor Ribar expressed concerned about student readiness for these shorter term, online composition courses. Faculty agreed that the college needs to emphasize that such course are fast paced and challenging. This information is already put on syllabi, but students don't seem to pay attention. Half of the student in these online classes are failing. Students are either unaware or unprepared for the rigor of a 6 week writing course.

Faculty suggested this is an issue that could be addressed in student advising; however, the advisor does not ultimately control the types of courses for which students enroll.

Can E-learning set up admission criteria for these courses?

**Action:** Professor Ribar is going to contact Institutional Effectiveness to explore the failure rate of 6/8 week online Composition courses and report back to cluster. Cluster will revisit issue during the spring meeting.

**ITEM 5. Creative Writing Alliance – Mary Galvin**

**Discussion:** The club is selling "scary Haikus" written by students to raise money for their programs. They will be doing this for every holiday.

**ITEM 6. Hybrid Courses in Honors College – Steve Brahlek**

**Discussion:** College has determined that Honors courses should not be offered as hybrids. Cluster believes hybrid sections are a good and valuable option for working students.

**Action:** Cluster voted unanimously for hybrid Honors courses.

**Attendance:**

Patrick Tierney  
David Abbondanza  
Carol Policy  
Roberta proctor  
Karin St. Pierre  
Regina Dilgen  
Mary Galvin  
David Nixon  
Brad Johnson  
Traci Klass  
Africa Fine  
John Ribar  
Nick Larocca  
Trinna Frever  
Nancy McDonald  
Barry Russal  
Jenifer Skolnick  
Stephen Gibson  
Dan McGavin  
Bruce Beck  
Vicki Sheurer

Submitted by:

Dr. Traci M. Klass, Scribe

c. Minutes Distribution List