

Approved Minutes from the Foreign Language Department (FLD) Meeting on
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

Present: Aaron, Andrew, Luisa, Manuel, Mihoko Luther, Serena, Solène, Yuki

Absent: Lízbeth (medical appt.)

1. Minutes from the Dec. 3, 2014 FLD Meeting were approved.
2. Minutes from the March 11, 2015 FLD Meeting were approved.
3. Summary/Report of Academic Senate and Faculty Association latest news--
Luisa Howell summarized this with a six-page document and explained the most salient points to us orally. We decided to pursue dual enrollment by offering college level language courses at local high schools that don't have language programs that we have, to begin with, at level one.
4. Kurt will observe Anne Lavalley's French 1 class (TTh 12-2:05 in 21G-1) and Luisa will observe Esther Hernández's Spanish 1 class (TTh 7:45pm-9:50pm in 66-267).
5. Winter 2016 and Spring 2016 Schedules. Luisa and Solène need all full-timers to send Luisa their preferred schedules for Winter and Spring 2016 within a week from today (by Wed., April 15, 2015). Italian is considering teaching level 3 and 4 during the same semester to increase the number of level 4 students. Serena asked if her Italian 4 class for the Spring 2016 semester can be changed to an Italian 1 if it doesn't have enough students. Luisa answered that yes, that is possible. Andrew asked if the same can be done for his Friday, Chinese 1 class and Luisa said that yes, that is possible if it doesn't have enough enrollment. Luisa emphasized that each instructor needs to check their enrollment numbers 5 weeks before the beginning of each new semester because 4 weeks before it the administration will move to cancel or reassign classes with low enrollment numbers.
6. In the past, if you were on a hiring committee you were unable to write a letter of recommendation for a candidate scheduled to be interviewed, but now that is allowed.
7. The district is looking to grow 2% with a greater interest in higher enrollment than adding classes.
8. SB288: We have decided that we are interested in dual enrollment. See point 3. above for more information.

9. The recommendation from the Faculty Association is that we put "outcomes.mtsac.edu" on our syllabi so that our students can read our Student Learning Outcomes.
10. We should develop a rotation plan for SLOs so that we cover different areas of the language each semester.
11. Be sure to include all desired purchases for ePIE: whole department to work on it.
12. Chair elections are coming up, so if anyone is interested in running, nominations will be at our May FLD meeting.
13. Hiring: We plan to hire new adjunct instructor(s) in Arabic, Japanese, Italian and French.
14. Equivalency: The changes we made to Arabic and Italian were NOT accepted; Chinese was encouraged to make a minor change in order to be approved. We reviewed the equivalency wording for Arabic, Italian and Chinese and Luisa answered questions about said wording. We agreed that the wording for Italian should be the same as French and Chinese should include the wording for Japanese and the wording of Arabic was approved by our department. Andrew moved to approve and Manual seconded it.
15. Jamaika Fowler: She visited our meeting and said that there are two points of view concerning credit by exam: 1) there are students who belong to higher level classes and those students can take a credit by exam test and move up to a higher level and get credit for the previous one(s); 2) students may decide to take the credit by exam test and therefore not take the FL class in question, thereby negatively affecting our enrollment.

Andrew said that it is intelligent and strategic for us to establish an AA degree in foreign languages (under the category of Liberal Arts) to allow a student to have a double major in Business or Nursing and Chinese (or any other foreign language class). By having a degree in Foreign Languages, we will be able to create a lot more classes for our students that will be required for the degree and thus we can more easily justify them. We can even create a Chinese Business class that will give the student credit both for the Chinese AA and the Business AA.

16. Valerio Giovanelli: We sent him a card and some gifts. He said that they have detected cancerous spots on his intestines and possibly his brain, so right now we don't know what's going to happen. He was at stage four before and now he may be considered level 5. We decided that it might be good to send him another card and/or letter or write a cartoon of us with him to send it to him.

The meeting ended at 4:30pm.
Minutes taken by Kurt Kemp