FYS Faculty Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 - Drinko Library 349

**Present:** Jennifer Sias, Isaac Wait, Jeradi Cohen, Kay Lawson, Joan St. Germain, Solen Dikener, Karen McComas, Howard Richards, Dick Garnett, Kateryna Schray

The meeting began at 8:00 am with coffee and tea provided by Academic Affairs.

Today’s agenda was distributed.

**New Business**

* Attendance initiative – Dr. Kateryna Schray made a presentation on The Herd Path Program, an attendance initiative Marshall University professors are testing this semester. The program was designed with the intention of improving academic performance, retention and ultimately graduation rates. A voluntary program, Herd Path allows faculty to submit attendance via the Faculty Tab in myMU. (see attached PowerPt presentation). Given that FYS already has an attendance policy, we encourage FYS faculty to participate by submitting attendance. Faculty can do so whenever it’s not too onerous to do so – once weekly or every two weeks – whatever you’re willing to do. That data then makes it way to Dr. Schray, who is working with trained upperclassmen, Herd Path Partners, who will contact freshmen with excessive absences to emphasize three points:

1. Regular attendance is essential for freshmen academic success
2. A first year student missing classes often is an indicator of academic difficulties
3. Students should talk to their instructors if they are having difficulty with class material

* FYS Summer Workgroup Show and Tell – Jennifer Sias and Isaac Wait updated FYS instructors on what the summer workgroup did, which included improvements to existing scenarios and tweaks to instructions as well as development of new scenarios.
* In instructors’ FYS MUOnline course shells, they should find a folder available only to them – INSTRUCTOR Resources and Exam Materials. That link should be grayed out as it is meant for faculty only. The Final Exam scenario and documents they will evaluate should NOT be shared in advance of the final exam. However, if you as the instructor would like to take a look at the scenario your students will be facing for the Final Exam, it’s all there for you!
* Jennifer noted that the summer workgroup made some modifications to the exam directions in an effort to make them more straight-forward (see attached). For example, based on feedback from the summer Assessment Committee, which reviewed random FYS exam submissions, the workgroup streamlined the criteria and wording asking students to read and evaluate the seven documents in Part A.
* They also switched Parts B and C so that students now are asked to think about what other information would have been helpful and how that information might be found BEFORE actually making the recommendation.
* Instructors can share these revised instructions with students prior to the Final Exam. In fact, these revisions were also incorporated into the Practice Exam, so students can see them there. They also are available here: <http://www.marshall.edu/fys/first-year-seminar/faculty/fys-final-exam/>
* FYS faculty funds – please apply by September 27 - <http://www.marshall.edu/fys/first-year-seminar/faculty/fys-faculty-classroom-activity-funds/>
* Please regularly visit [www.marshall.edu/fys](http://www.marshall.edu/fys) - particularly the Faculty tab for updates and resources
* Encourage colleagues to teach FYS – the Fall FYS Institute training for those who have never taught FYS begins September 23. More info here: <http://www.marshall.edu/fys/first-year-seminar/faculty/fys-institute/>
* **Upcoming meetings – mark your calendar:**
* FYS Faculty Meeting 2:  Thursday, October 13 from 8-9 am. Location: Drinko Library 349.  Agenda includes:  1.  How are you meeting your min/max reading and writing requirements in FYS – share.  2. Demo of a successful activity/instruction plan – Isaac Wait & Mary Welch. 3. Call for volunteers – New video testimonials from FYS instructors on the benefits of teaching FYS.
* FYS Faculty Meeting 3: Tuesday, November 15 from 8-9 am. Location: Drinko Library 349.  Agenda includes:  1. FYS Exam reminders 2. Demo of a successful activity/instruction plan – Sabrina Thomas & Jayme Waldron 3. HIP Project presentation – Damien Arthur, Bill Gardner & more

\*Please send other agenda item suggestions to Jennifer

Disband - The meeting concluded at 9:00 a.m.

Notes by Jennifer Sias