Minutes of English 9/19 Norming Session on 4-12-13
Essentials Bldg. 71C, Room 3

Christine Hacskaylo (Coordinator)

English 9/19 Norming Session

Present: Brenda Kwan
        Jenny Webster
        Charlene Gima
        Cara Chang
        Christine Hacskaylo

The meeting began at 12:35 p.m.

1. The session began with a discussion of SLO's, and, like English 22 and 100, it was agreed that the SLO's fit within the three categories of content, organization, and grammar. It was felt that this continuity was important to student success. We also discussed the weighting of these three categories with regard to grading.

2. The issue of returning study skills to the SLO's for both English 9 and 19 was then brought up. It was felt that study skills are necessary for developmental students coming to college for the first time. It was also agreed that this SLO could be assessed in various ways, including keeping records of mandatory student visits to work with tutors at HCC's Writing Center and of mandatory hours in the Essentials Computer Lab, which we already have a method of compiling. It was decided to recommend that this SLO be added for both English 9 and 19.

3. The group then addressed the differences between English 9 and 19 regarding content, organization, and grammar. The question was raised of whether or not we should include content in the rubric for English 9. It was felt that we could assess content at this level.

4. We then discussed and agreed on grading weights for English 9: content at 10%, organization at 45%, and grammar and style at 45%. The grading weights for English 19 were: content at 20%, organization at 40% and grammar and style at 40%.

5. The discussion helped the group establish a rubric by which student papers could be graded, and Brenda, Chris H., Cara, Charlene, and Jenny submitted papers for discussion. There was close agreement about the grades assigned to each paper.

6. It was decided to use last semester’s prompt for the in-class writing portion of the final exam for both English 9 and 19. It was felt that asking students to reflect on the effectiveness of My Writing Lab was a way to assess their writing and, at the same time, to gather more data regarding student attitudes towards using the program. Chris will send copies of the prompt to everyone.

7. Chris raised the issue of norming our final exit exam in English 9 and 19, and the group agreed that this would be an effective assessment strategy. Brenda suggested that we all save at least one example of the English 9/19 final in-class essays so that we will be able to norm before the final exams are given in the fall.

Chris H.
The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.