E-Focus Report for 2015-2016

Significant events:

1. Professor Ronald C. Pine became chair in August 2015, replacing Chris Ann Moore.

2. The committee met in early fall 2015 and decided to change back from course-based approval to instructor-based approval due to item 3 below.

3. English 210 was removed from the list of approved courses. The instructor who applied for approval is no longer at HCC, and the instructor who currently teaches 210 has no interest in doing E-focus at this time.

   The chair discovered in August that this course had been in the schedule for two semesters as E-focus when it was not taught E-focus. Students received E-focus credit even though they did not take an E-focus class.

   The chair recommended that students be stripped of E-focus credit and be informed that they did not take an E-focus course. They did not earn E-focus credit. However, the E-focus committee voted (2-1) to hold the students harmless. It was argued that in spite of the grievous error, the schedule is a contract with students. The chair forwarded the recommendation to the GEB and CPC, recommending that the VCAA make the final decision. The chair has not been informed what action was taken, or if any action was taken by the VCAA.

4. During the academic year, Jour 150 (Chris Fleck) and Phil 101 (Ronald C. Pine) were approved by the E-focus committee.

5. Semester E-focus evaluations were conducted in Fall 2015. There was relatively high participation from all E-focus courses except one course. The chair will work with this instructor to increase student participation. The student response from those courses with good participation rates showed that all the E-focus instructors are covering the E-focus hallmarks well.

6. Instructors Meacham, Moore, Nakamoto-Devine, Panisnick, Pine, Sokei, and Taksugi were informed that their E-focus course certifications expire at the end of Fall 2016. They were urged to submit recertification applications in August or September 2016. It was noted that those who had relatively high student participation rates for the fall E-focus evaluations could forego Spring student evaluations and use the Fall student evaluations for their recertification.
7. The Intranet site has been kept current. There is one date (7/12/2011) on the first E-focus Intranet page that neither the chair nor the Intranet Web Master has been able to remove. Evidently that date gets stamped when the pages were first set up. Disturbing because it makes it look like the pages have not been updated.

8. The E-focus chair resigned in April. He resigned for the same reasons Pat Paterson and David Panisnick resigned from Foundations. The GEB has been unable and apparently unwilling to take action against the non-academic (lack of voting, discussion, and due process) behavior of the Foundation chair. The Foundation Intranet site has also been an embarrassment to the GEB. As of March it still showed certifications had expired for numerous courses. Some in 2014.

Submitted April 8, 2016, by Ronald C. Pine