

ACN Meeting Minutes February 20, 2007

Members Present:

K. Baith, J. Broskowski, C. Cepeda, R. Church, R. Cocos, K. Coffaro, J. Diggins, J. Dvorak, L. Fitzenberger, K. Folstein, J. Harper, J. Hayes, B. Her, L. Hoeft, D. Holloway, L. Huang, V. Johnson, T. Jones, S. Kaempfer, C. Kaye, M. Knasinski, G. Kopke, J. Lockman, E. Maldonado, C. Manuel, K. Pietsch, V. Pryor, J. Rahmer, C. Rasavong, J. Salzer, L. Sieckert, K. Silvestre B. Simon, R. Sledge, K. Spann, A. Wrench, S. Zlotocha

Amy June Rowley and Jennifer Hayes

Amy June discussed the American Sign Language Program. She has been at UWM for nine years and has seen many changes. She says that they have had many students who enter their classes because their advisor told them that ASL is “easy.” Actually, languages are ranked in levels of how easy they are to learn for English speakers. Spanish and French are Level 1 languages, the easiest for English speakers to learn. ASL is a Level 4, so it is not “easy.” That said, it is a visual language as opposed to a verbal language, so some students who are visual learners may have great success in the classes.

ASL classes max at 25 students and they are all taught by deaf faculty, making them full immersion after the first day. All classes are 3 credits and are 300 level courses. The ASL department uses a waitlist. So, if a student cannot get into a particular class, they should fill out a “closed section interest form” and get on a waitlist.

Jennifer Hayes then listed the different degrees and programs of study that ASL offers. They have the ASL Study Program, where a student can get a major or a minor in ASL. They have an Interpreter Training Program. They have a certification program for Foreign Language Teachers of ASL, as well as a post-baccalaureate and master’s program in teaching Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students.

There is also a placement test in ASL which allows students to receive up to 12 retroactive credits as well.

Linda Huang, Ramona Sledge and Victoria Pryor, Multicultural Student Center

The Multicultural Student Center was created in Fall 2005 as part of the Access to Success Initiative and is made up of several programs and activities.

The Multicultural Student Lounge is in the Union and is open from 10-4. Use of the lounge went up last semester and they hope to continue this trend in following semesters.

The Making the Connections program is a program that Ramona Sledge started last year. The program helped new freshmen get ready for their first semester by showing them their classrooms, helping them get their books, etc. It was very successful and will be continued again next fall.

Victoria Pryor discussed various workshops the center has held and will hold in the future and Linda Huang said that if there are any topics that people think workshops should be held on to let them know. Also let her know if you want to present a workshop.

Everyone should have received their copy of Myriad, the magazine this fall. They will be working on the magazine for next fall as well and if anyone has any ideas for topics you should let them know now.

Lori Sieckert, New Freshman Testing

New Freshman Testing used to assign students to testing dates in the past. Last year was the first year they allowed students to choose their own date and it drastically improved their show rate. They went from about 60% to 90%. The majority of New Freshman Testing is done during spring break, or at regional dates, but there is also testing done every Wednesday after break. So far over 1,000 students have signed up for this year's spring break testing.

Lori also discussed AP courses and that if a student is currently in an AP course in high school they still encourage them to take the placement exam. This is so they can register for a course at New Freshman Orientation, even if their results have not come in yet. They can always make a change later if necessary.

Lori can access scores from placement tests taken at other campuses through the PLS system.

A student can retest on a placement test but they must wait 8-10 weeks in order to do so and cannot be currently register for any coursework in the area.

Announcements:

Jonnie Dvorak-TARC: Have students fill out the "Special Course/Time Tutorial Request" if they need a tutor at a time when it doesn't appear that one is available. Tutors are available during more times than are listed. TARC will be hosting a teleconference on the First Year Experience on March 12-2. If you are interested, you can sign up on mydev. Update on LASSI (Learning and Study Strategies Inventory).

Kate Coffaro introduced Kathryn Sylvestre a new advisor in the Honors College.

Our next meeting will be April 17th in Union 191.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Diggins
ACN Secretary/Treasurer