



Minutes
Speaking Intensive Committee
September 8, 2015

In attendance: Anand Rao (Chair), Robert Rycroft, Marisa Martinez-Mira, Virginia Mackintosh, Randall Reif (Secretary)

Anand called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Speaking Center Report

- a. *New FSEM module*- The Speaking Center has worked with the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) to create a new module to support the SI and FSEM instructors. The first module, on communication apprehension, was used by FSEMs last year. The second module, completed this summer, talks about the dangers of using PowerPoint poorly or “death by PowerPoint” (poor decisions making due to using PowerPoint for the wrong types of information). Future modules will focus on topics such as class discussions and basic delivery skills. These should be ready to support FSEMs next Fall.
- b. *Fall 2015 Class Visits*- Twice as many classroom visits have been scheduled at the beginning of this semester as ever have been scheduled before. The Speaking Center has seen an increase in students coming to the Speak Center in the first few weeks of the semester.
- c. *Fall 2015 Workshops*- Four SI workshops have been/will be offered this year. Interest in these workshops from both students and faculty was a concern however many students attended the first workshop. Additional workshop topics include presenting a research paper and classroom discussions. Student consultants can be cross-trained in both speaking and writing so that they are ready to help students adapt papers into speaking presentations. This is becoming a popular idea.

2. SI Program Report

- a. 2015-2016 Assessment Plan- Taiwo distributed the Assessment Plan to department chairs. The plan includes assessment of oral communication skills for programs working on their 5 and 10 year reviews. Anand also noted that the

College of Business has request assessment assistance each year as part of its AACSB accreditation preparation.

- b. Assessment of communication apprehension has been ongoing using a survey taken by students during orientation (PRCA-24 personal report of communication apprehension). Unfortunately, only about ½ of the first year students took the survey. The data is usable and consistent with the previous year's data but this response rate is lower than we would like. In future years there is the intention of using the results to provide resources for students with high levels of apprehension. A new system may be needed to increase the number of students taking the survey. It should be noted that about 1/3 of the students are highly apprehensive about some aspect of speaking. A final report for retention will be generated for all students that completed the PRCA to see if there is a correlation between speaking apprehension and retention rates. The data should be available in October and Anand will work on compiling the data for the November SI Committee meeting.
3. SI Course Designation Proposals
 - a. ENGL 371: Contemporary Poetry (Mara Scanlon, instructor) - **Approved** by a unanimous vote.
 - b. HIST 300VV: American Disasters (Claudine Ferrell, instructor) - **Approved** by a unanimous vote.
 - c. MUHL 490: Senior Seminar (Mark Snyder, instructor) - **Approved** by a unanimous vote after receiving more information about the proposal.
 - d. NURS 490: Practicum (All Instructors) - **Approved** by a unanimous vote.
 - i. It was noted that the standard SI workshops are not always accessible for Nursing instructors. Anand will explore options for the creation of a specific nursing SI workshop with a time and topics geared specifically for the course.
 - e. THEA 481: Resource Strategies for Arts Administration (Gregg Stull, instructor) - **Approved** by a unanimous vote.
 4. Requests for Transfer Credit
 - a. SP 108: Introduction to Communication (approved for Sitwat Nadeem)
 - b. SPH 217: Informative Speaking (approved for Miranda Franzley)
 - c. COMM 101: Honors-Introduction to Human Communication (approved for Madison R. McCoy)
 - d. GEOL 353: Tectonics (denied)

5. Next Meeting – November 19, 2015, at 4pm.

6. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Randall Reif
September 10, 2015