

## Minutes of the Curriculum Committee Subcommittee on Course Evaluation

The committee convened in Colston Hall Room 347 on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. Members Present: Professors D. Gonsher, M. Kanuck, J. Ryan, and M. Wenzel (chair)

1. The minutes of November 24 were approved unanimously.
2. The committee met with representatives from the Departments of Education, Reading, and ESL, English, and Mathematics, as follows:

A) **Education, Reading & ESL** - Professors Irby, Gear and Cukras met with the Subcommittee. Concerning ESL, a revision of the ESL sequence is currently under discussion. The proposed new sequence will begin with the current ESL 02, followed by the current ESL 11 as a non-credit course, ending with a new credit course (ESL 12). As students exit ESL 12 they would enter ENG 11. It was noted that some sections of ESL 01 will still be necessary to serve the needs of students unable to enroll in the Language Immersion Program.

Concerning ESL, it was noted that RDL 05 served only ESL students and that the Writing Assessment Test is the DTLS which yields, for each student tested, both a scale score and a standardized score which can be equated with reading level. The exit from RDL 01 is a departmental mastery test and a scale score of 5 or more. The exit from RDL 02 is a departmental mastery exam and a scale score of 9 to 11. The CUNY minimum is a scale score of 12. RDL 01 or 02 are sequential, with students enrolling in 01 generally flowing into 02. Some students are high achievers and can exit the RDL sequence with an intersession workshop after RDL 01. It was noted that neither RDL 01 or 02 has a syllabus or fixed text (various texts for various sections). Each course does have a Statement of Objectives to be met. Attention was drawn to the range of grades in 01 and 02 between full-time and part-time instructors and within each category.

B) **Department of English** - Professor Witlieb distributed a revised and expanded analysis of Dr. Ritze's "remedial course pass rates, full-time/part-time, Fall 1997, English" report and a three-page statement from the Department of English concerning ENG 01 and ENG 02 passing rates. The material was explained and the Subcommittee's questions reviewed briefly. The English Department's analysis makes clear that a number of students who do not receive an academic grade in 01 and 02 subsequently passed to the next level through participation in an intersession workshop. Although the pass rate for most sections can therefore be adjusted upward, a broad range of success rates between sections taught by part-time and full-time teachers remains. Professor Witlieb indicated that there was no consistent correlation between poor passing rates (as low as 13% success rate in some sections taught by part-

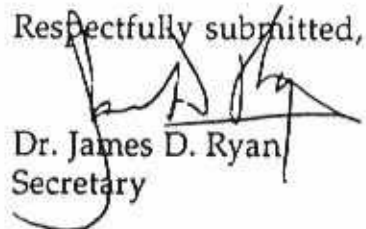
timers and 23% in sections taught by full-timers) and the instructors who teach them. Concerning required text, the English Department does not have a syllabus or required text for either ENG 01 or ENG 02. Newly hired part-time faculty are obliged to select texts from a limited menu of approved books, but experienced part-time faculty and all full-time faculty are free to create their own syllabus and to use whatever texts they desire. The English Department does not see a correlation between pass rates in some sections and the material used by the instructors of those sections.

- C) **Department of Mathematics** - Professor Glier, representing the Math Department, explained that Dean Ritze's report on pass rate looks worse than the reality because INC has been counted as non-success. In MTH 03 and MTH 05, that department used INC to indicate mastery of the course material but non-success in the CUNY MAT. The Subcommittee suggested that the Math Department might follow up on Dean Ritze's analysis to see if the numbers would change if the results of intersession workshops (where INC frequently changes to a passing grade) are taken into account. The Subcommittee drew attention to apparent staffing patterns by which the overwhelming majority of MTH 01 classes are taught by adjuncts versus MTH 04 or MTH 06. In addition, the wide range of passing rates in various sections, particularly among part-time faculty, was discussed. Professor Glier noted that the higher percentage of passing rates were achieved in Freshman Initiative Programs.

For each of the departments, the Subcommittee Chair indicated that today's meeting was merely a first look and that each department would be invited back early in the Spring semester for a more extensive discussion of the issues before us. Each department was also reminded that, if they have changes in the works, the Subcommittee may be of assistance to them in formulating their ideas for presentation to the full Curriculum Committee.

3. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be December 15 at 4 p.m., following the Curriculum Committee meeting.
4. The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dr. James D. Ryan  
Secretary

- c: Members of the Subcommittee  
Dean Ritze  
Dr. Ryan, Chair of the Curriculum Committee