

## **English Dept Meeting (Scheduling) 24 Feb 2016**

*Stephen, Diane, George, Alena, Kathleen, Justin, Advising*

Coordinators are meeting with scheduling staff, who have explained that they are switching to EMS, which will be implemented by Spring 2017. EMS is a scheduling program for optimizing space to enable students to complete their programs as quickly as possible. Certain people could be authorized to access EMS directly, making changes in schedules, but who? Would coordinators be allowed to do this? Or would all scheduling changes still have to go through administrative secretaries?

Alena remarked that while 0900's integration is continuing, they cannot really complete this until they know what the new ESL path will be, so this gives us even more impetus to complete our plans for ESL and placement. Brent, when can we really get this pathway defined so that we can pass on this information to Dev Reading/Writing? This should also include placement definitions/numbers.

Alena has suggested that the newly integrated English 0900 would be entered via a 40 placement score on the Reading section of the Accuplacer, rather than 30. Does this mean that we in ESL should try to identify a comparable Pearson test score? I had thought we needed to identify a Pearson test score that authorizes our students to register for English 1010, so I am not sure what Dev Reading/Writing would actually need from us.

The English department currently does not have Open Learning courses—courses that would allow students to complete on their own schedule, before ending of term. The Open Education Resources courses being piloted in the English department this Fall are not Open Learning. They just will not require a textbook, and thereby they can keep student costs down.

I'm not sure what I think about this yet. I absolutely see the point in trying to keep costs down for students, but if you pilot 3 sections of English 1010 that specify to students, "You only have to pay \$5 for this courses materials," you will quickly cripple all the other sections that still require a textbook, which will limit the freedom of instructors who choose to use textbooks. It also unfairly punishes textbook writers, who have typically nothing to do with the high costs of college textbooks, which are actually determined by publishers and college bookstores.

EMS will not allow for dedicated classrooms, but it will allow first priority preferences for certain rooms being given to certain departments, such as the English department. However, as enrollment numbers come in, those rooms could still be reassigned.

Stephen is also discussing the English path and retention and success. More students than before are taking English 1010 early on in their program, which is good, but many are still delaying English 2010, even postponing it until their final term before graduation, which defeats the purpose of these two courses.