

Ann Tatum

From: owner-bc_english@listserv.bakersfieldcollege.edu on behalf of Pamela Boyles [pboyles@bakersfieldcollege.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2011 3:20 PM
To: bc_english
Subject: Voting Results: English 50

Categories: 2b

Dear Colleagues,

The votes for the proposed changes to English 50 have been cast and counted:

1 abstention

4 No

22 Yes.

Result: The proposal has been approved—

- stop conducting FEE;
- begin conducting norming and evaluation of synthesis paper for course assessment purposes.

What does this mean?

Effective spring 2012, English 50 instructors will NOT conduct a department wide final, AKA the FEE.

Instead, instructors are encouraged to participate in a norming and evaluation of a synthesis paper, projected to occur as early as the 11th week of the semester in this first semester. Synthesis papers may be drafts or final products, depending on how the instructor wants to manage it. For those English 50 instructors who want to participate, they can anticipate that they will provide one student paper per class. The assessment made by the group will not result in an imposed grade on the student paper or the student's class grade.

Reminders:

- **Finals**—In eliminating the FEE, English 50 instructors will conduct normal class sessions in week 15. Additionally, the class final will occur during their regularly schedule class final of Finals Week.
- **In-Class Work**—English 50 instructors are to be mindful of the necessity to continue working on and assessing work written inside class, an important skill needed in classes of all disciplines.
- **Standards**—Participating in norming sessions remains critically important in maintenance of department/course standards whether or not the English 50 instructor assigns a synthesis paper during this transition period.

- **Transition**—the English 50 course outline will be revised and submitted to the Curriculum Committee. English 50 instructors can anticipate the following changes:
 - Requirement of a full-length book (fiction or non-fiction)
 - SLO revisions in language to include synthesis paper and MLA format
 - Requirement of 6000 words explicitly listed
- **Evaluation of New Assessment**—the expectation is that English 50 instructors will be evaluating the new assessment method (norming on a synthesis paper) in—or directly following—each semester of its use.

I thank each department member for the significant amount of time and thought spent in discussing the proposal, not only at the department meeting, but at the many other meetings and email circulations. I trust that we will continue to discuss what we do, how we do it, and ways to improve what and how we do what we do (yee haw, that us a fun sentence!).

Seriously, I do believe we are moving in a direction that will lessen the gap between English 1a and English 50. The synthesis paper (and use of a full-length text) more closely connect(s) to the demands of the English 1a class.

Sincerely,

Pam Boyles

Professor, English

Department Chair, English

Bakersfield College

1801 Panorama Drive

Bakersfield, CA 93305

661.395.4237 Office

661.395.4723 FAX

pboyles@bakersfieldcollege.edu