

**FTS Advisory Board**  
**Friday, September 28, 2012**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

1. Welcome and introductions: Thanks to everyone who was able to be there on Friday (Kyle Chambers, Becky Fremo, Deborah Goodwin, Julie Johnson, Eric Vrooman, and Paula O'Loughlin).
2. Low enrollment in race/ethnicity courses: We discussed the problem of low enrollment in courses dealing with race and ethnicity this year. These courses have been offered in the past and have been full in past years. They are not offered at times that conflict with each other. We discussed whether this is a problem of framing, a problem with the students, or something else. Specific suggestions that emerged from this discussion include:
  - a. Change the requirement that every FTS course description begin with the sentence, "This seminar introduces students to..." to emphasize the content of courses.
  - b. Conduct a focus group of students to learn why they choose the sections they do. {I may be able to work this in to an existing assessment project involving focus groups for the Greeter Mentor pilot sections}
  - c. "Sex up" the titles. Encourage some of the FTS professors to change their titles to reflect more thematic elements to make them more intriguing to students.
3. Use of The Everyday Writer: Only 16 FTS sections required students to purchase TEW. In the other 27 sections, the Bookmark instructs students to "attend class first". It is not clear if the "attend class first" sections ever advise students to purchase the book (which is running upwards of \$70). We suspect that there are two factors that make faculty less likely to require the book: the cost, and their uncertainty as to how to use the book in class (to make it worth the cost). This is also a problem that the GACWACAC (☺) is addressing. Specific suggestions that emerged from this discussion include:
  - a. A planned Teachers Talking: Writing on the topic of teaching with TEW (Deborah and Eric)
  - b. Including questions about why FTS faculty don't require TEW on the faculty writing survey from the WAC program
  - c. Kate will look into what size of donation would be needed to set up an endowment that would provide \$8,000 each year to purchase copies of TEW and the Reading in Common book for every incoming student.
  - d. Deborah will look into putting language back into the WRITI and WRITD guidelines that requires the use of TEW (language that used to be in there but is not there now).
  - e. Kate will find out how many copies of TEW the library has
  - f. Deborah will find out how many copies of TEW we need to buy in order for our students to get full on-line access.
  - g. Becky will send Kate a document about why faculty should use TEW in class to be posted to the FTS website
4. "Homework": Please look at the FTS survey questions and bring any suggestions for changes or additions to our next meeting on Friday, October 12.

Thanks again for your help with the FTS program!

Kate Knutson  
10.2.2012