

During your presentation on May 19th please share with us what you think we should know about your division and the departments within it. In particular, let us know how your area is navigating the COVID-19 related changes from a planning and budgeting standpoint.

Language Arts Division consists of four departments: Communications Studies, English, English as a Second Language, and Journalism. In those departments we offer courses in COMM, ESL, ELIT, EWRT, JOUR, and LART. We also have EPS counselors dedicated to students who need additional support to succeed in their college reading, writing, or ESL classes. Students served can be of any major and are served for as long as they are taking classes at De Anza.

With regard to COVID-19 and planning, we are like everyone else doing our best to adjust to remote teaching. Some departments such as COMM and English are better prepared overall to the move to remote instruction, having had significant hybrid and online offerings already and having strong faculty leaders to support other colleagues. Even in those departments, however, not all faculty were prepared for this shift and many would prefer traditional classroom instruction if there were no fear of the pandemic. ESL on the other hand did not offer many hybrid courses previously, and offered no fully online classes, so the transition has been more challenging. To their credit, they have created peer support groups and sought out the workshops and support from the online ed office. We are all somewhat anxious about the impact this may be having on students and student success, and we expect to need ongoing support for online training and enhancement.

Specific needs we expect to have next year include more iPads, tablets, and laptops, along with faculty professional development and norming sessions in English and ESL to refine and ensure entry and exit standards at each level.

In your presentation please cover the questions IPBT members had for your Division:

Section I.B. 2 - Are advanced certificates available? If not, is it plausible?  
Answer from COMM: As of now, the Comm Studies Dept. promotes 3 awards: Certificate of Achievement, A.A., and the AA-T degree. Advanced certificates have been discussed in the past. Yet given our early shift to Canvas

and unit change, we have never had the bandwidth, resources, or expertise to pursue it.

Section 1.B.1 “Number of certificates of achievements awarded? 0” Are certificates available? What is the justifications for “0” degrees and certificates? Answer from JOUR: JOUR offered two Certificate of Achievement in Public Relations (regular and advanced) **for the first time** in 2018-2019. One was earned by Spring 2019 but not awarded until December 2019.

Division Questions:

How Did AB 705 impact the enrollment? Or you believe we have reached a new norm?

We lost the entire Reading Department and all the courses along with all the EWRT200 and EWRT211 classes. To accommodate the students now entering at transfer level, we added more EWRT1A and EWRT2 classes, along with co-requisite and stretch courses. The new sections do not fully replace the lost FTES.

The good news in this regard is that students are now able to take courses other than EWRT sooner because they are not taking pre-transfer level courses. This has led to increases in some GE course enrollments.

Some students who would have placed into ESL courses are now registering directly into transfer level writing, which has been one factor in declining ESL enrollment. Other factors are student choosing to take noncredit ESL at other colleges and declining international student numbers. ESL has revised many of their courses and reduced the unit requirements at the top three levels. They have also developed noncredit options some of which we hope to begin offering this fall, pending approval of the noncredit certificates.

English and ESL developed guided self-placement tools which are fully implemented. Multiple measures placement has also been instituted in both

departments, allowing students with a high school GPA to be placed without a placement test.

What process have you put in place to increase the enrollment?

In terms of lost FTES, most of the immediate impact of AB 705 should be resolved in English. We expect enrollment to stabilize in English/EWRT next year.

In ESL, the State has not yet given the final guidance on AB 705; however, based on what we know of the pending plans, the actions taken or in development in ESL regarding placement, reduced unit loads, and noncredit options will put us in compliance.

We are implementing new lower unit courses, noncredit courses, and certificates over the course of the next two academic years and hope that with active recruitment and partnership with the adult schools we will be able to stabilize enrollment in ESL as well; however, we cannot predict what the impact on international student enrollment will be.

We are trying to offer additional sections whenever we have sufficient demand, particularly in COMM and EWRT. One challenge we've face in COMM is the difficulty in finding new part-time faculty. We regularly, nearly every quarter, have enough demand to add classes but not been able to find a teacher.

What are you doing to close the equity gap?

Each department has its own equity planning which includes workshops and retreats. We also have faculty coordinators in all of our special programs. Our corequisite and stretch EWRT courses and ESL263 and ESL273 all have portfolio processes which encourage instructors to maintain entry and exit standards and support each other and students in reaching the standards.

We also have counselors dedicated to students who need more support to succeed in transfer level reading and writing. English Performance Success

counselors are categorically funded (a combination of CAEP and formerly SSSP funds) and the program combines different aspects of MPS and SSRS programs, like Puente and FYE.

As a side note, I've noticed when discussing how to close the equity gap with faculty leadership in the division that we often don't know what else we could be doing and would like more guidance or ideas.