Chabot College Unit Plan
2008-2009

Unit: Speech
Division: Language Arts
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Part I: Description of the Unit

Our mission in the Speech Area is to serve the students of Chabot College as they
seek to transfer, earn degrees or certificates and/or develop better skills for the
work place. We are in the unique position of serving almost all students at
Chabot and, therefore, acknowledge the challenges of serving a multi-
cultural/racial/ethnic population. We are committed to continuing our very
successful program and also expanding our curriculum to better serve our
students.

In addition, we offer students the opportunity to participate in the only academic,
co-curricular program offered at Chabot, Forensics Competition. Our award-
winning program affords Chabot students additional opportunity to develop
critical thinking and presentational skills; compete for awards and scholarships;
And serve the greater Chabot community.

Part II: Accomplishments, Results and Goals

Our most critical issue this year, and we suppose for many years to come, is
staffing. With the retirement of David Arovola, we were once again faced with
having to ask for a replacement position as well as a growth position. Needless to
say, we did not get the growth position we so desperately need. We are, however,
thrilled that we will be able to hire replacement faculty and hope he or she will
help us take our area in new directions. We still have difficulty finding qualified
instructors for some of our specialty courses and the burden placed on full-time
faculty still inhibits the creation of meaningful curriculum and program
development. While we are thrilled to have at least a replacement position, we
still find ourselves understaffed to the point where we cannot do all the necessary
evaluations of adjuncts; we are spread very thin when it comes to representation
on campus committees; and universally feel overwhelmed as we go through
program review and accreditation. We have been struggling to build our program
and staff our classes for over a decade and we seem to be on the brink of doing
some very great things, but we need another full time faculty.
Our newest faculty, Christine Warda, brings a strong and creative talent to the performance side of our program. She was also instrumental in the design and development of the communications lab. In addition, she compiled and directed a competitive theatre which is currently at the National Championships in Chicago. We are pleased to see the performance arts component of our speech program succeeding. In addition, Christine and Patti Keeling collected the data and wrote and directed the opening flex day “theatre,” meant to welcome our new president and give her a taste of all Chabot has to offer.

Patti Keeling continues to contribute to the national reputation of Chabot by attending the Western States Communication Association convention in Colorado. She attended a very valuable workshop on student learning outcomes. In addition, she chaired a panel focusing on public speaking, “Style vs. Substance.” She is currently working on a project/paper for presentation which investigates faculty resistance to distance learning programs and will be presenting this next year at WSCA in Phoenix.

The Forensics program, under the direction of Jason Ames, has become a premier program once again. Our students consistently medal at state and national tournaments (including the 2008 state gold medal in extemporaneous speaking) and are active in the community, exposing our program and college in a positive light via public performances. We offer two Speech Night performances through which the public is invited on campus to see our students perform. We have found this to be a great recruiting opportunity for the speech program.

In addition to the two intramural tournaments we offer each semester, Chabot again hosted our “Gladiator Invitational” speech tournament in January. Due to constructions, the tournament was physically held at Ohlone College. Over fifteen schools came and competed for awards and glory and it was deemed a great success! We plan on making this a Chabot tradition and can’t wait for our campus to be completed so we can bring our tournament home.

We continue to monitor enrollment trends with particular attention being paid to our late afternoon, early evening students. We also continue to offer classes at San Leandro Adult School in the spirit of community outreach and program growth. We very much want to offer a larger variety of courses to stay competitive with surrounding colleges and to insure that our degree is viable. We are working on courses that have to do with Rhetorical theory, such as Political Rhetoric. Once our new instructor is in place, we will be reviving our Gender Communication course, developing intercultural and interpersonal courses for online delivery and adding Health Communication to our area as a way to serve our nursing and medical assistance programs. We are excited about being part of the new Learning Connection, spearheaded by our Dean, Marcia Corcoran.

Our two greatest areas of need are staffing and budget to support the forensics program. Our goal is to present our case for new faculty to the prioritization
committee and hope for the best. In addition, we are hoping that the overwhelming success of the forensics program warrants better and more consistent funding. Jason will ask for an increase to the budget under separate cover.

Activities to support these goals:
- Continue Intramural Speech competitions which will help recruit students to our program.
- Continue to offer the Gladiator Invitational offsite until our new campus is complete.
- Continue to evaluate current course offering and design new time configurations for speech classes.
- Seek a new speech position for the 2008-9 school years. Continue to have representation on the campus wide hiring committee and hoping to bring some change to that committee’s process.
- Professor Keeling increased her load to 100% to help with some staffing issues until an additional new instructor is on board. She is also serving as speech area coordinator.
- Continue to serve the community and offer courses off site.
- Staff our Speech Communication Lab and extend the hours to better serve our students.

Relationship of Goals to the Strategic Plan:

Activity A2-3 to increase our enrollments and support forensics program.
* Speech Night – Jason Ames
* Spring Production – Christine Warda/Patti Keeling
* Intramural Speech Competition – Speech Staff
* Revisit schedule of speech classes – Speech Staff
* Invitational Tournament
* Creation of a temporary team room for forensics.
* Rename the speech area “Communications Studies”

Activity B1-1 Monitor enrollments. Add classes in the late afternoon.

Linking Speech 2B with Learning Service to ensure positive enrollments and community outreach.

Activity B1-2 Offering additional once a week Speech 1 class to accommodate working students. This was put on hold this semester until our enrollments stabilize (after construction).

Offering additional Speech 46 classes.
Activity B3-1 Offer Wednesday Speech I, 12-2:30 to attract working students (on and off campus) with flex schedules.

We are still working on creating an adjunct mentoring program.

All of our courses are quite healthy, especially when compared to courses across campus. In view of the campus reconstruction, we are reluctant to add too many more classes without adequate staffing and until we can assess enrollment trends.

Part III: Staffing Requests

We need at least one additional faculty to accomplish what we have set out to do. As the college goes through the next few years of exciting turmoil, we must have energetic, committed faculty to make sure our program not only survives the dust, but thrives. We continue to have representation on the prioritization committee and we will complete any necessary forms for that committee. We hope that the administration will reassess the process of faculty position prioritization so that it becomes a fairer more equitable process.

Part IV: Enrollment Requests

As the graph show, our student success rates are up once again but we are only cautiously optimistic. We believe the construction has had a negative impact on some of our enrollments and we will be watching this very carefully over the next two years. We are reluctant to add new sections of Speech I until we can fully appreciate enrollment trends due to construction. We will approach the next two years very conservatively as we attempt to expand our program offering to support our new “Communication Studies” approach. We’ve attached spread sheets, etc. to support above narrative.

Part V: Requests for Additional Resources

We are not sure about the viability of any requests at this time due to the budget constraints of reconstruction. In looking at the plans for the new college, we believe our needs are being met. We would like to see any and all money spent with a “student first” attitude.

*Jason Ames and Christine Warda are working on developing and maintaining a temporary team room while the new construction takes place.
*Christine Warda spearheaded the opening of the for the Speech Com Lab. We are hoping that staffing does not become an issue as we move forward.
*We do need easels/presentation stands for our speech classes.
*Jason Ames will prepare a budget request under separate cover.