

## Summary of Activities, MLA Committee on Community Colleges, 2010–11

*The Committee on Community Colleges is charged with considering a range of issues that affect modern language teachers in two-year colleges, e.g., conditions of employment, staffing, curriculum, articulation with secondary schools and four-year institutions, the preparation and recruitment of faculty, and the encouragement of scholarship about teaching in the community college.*

*The committee should develop convention sessions and propose publications and other projects that will serve the needs of students and current and future teachers at two-year colleges.*

2010–11 members: Falk Cammin (Foothill College, CA), Eric Devlin (Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus, TX), Margaret “Betsy” Hanzimanolis (De Anza College, CA), Miles McCrimmon (J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, VA), Roslyn Raney (College of San Mateo, CA), David Stout (Portland Community College, OR), Linda Weinhouse (Community College of Baltimore County, MD).

Members of this year’s committee met in person at the MLA offices on 20–22 October 2010 and then by conference call on 21 January, 18 February, and 29 April 2011. Though the teleconferences are quite strenuous, they do enable us to convene more frequently. But we all agree that meeting face to face at the start of each academic year is essential for building the relationships necessary for the committee members to work together effectively.

This year the committee continued its previous work of making the annual convention as relevant, compelling, and valuable as possible for colleagues working in two-year colleges. Offering these sessions at the MLA convention, rather than at conferences attended solely by community college faculty members, also made it possible to build sessions around eminent leaders in the profession, such as Guadalupe Valdés and Claire Kramsch.

At the 2011 convention in Los Angeles, our committee organized the following sessions. Names of committee members who presented are marked with an asterisk.

Session 22, 1/6/11

*Class Dismissed: Economic Policies, the Academic Workforce, and Student Access in Higher Education*

Paul Lauter, Grover Furr, Sandra Baringer, Julia Stein, Margaret Hanzimanolis\*, David Laurence, and Miles McCrimmon\*.

Session 234, 1/7/11

*Heritage Language Teaching: Opportunities and Challenges*

Maria Carreira, Ana Roca, Guadalupe Valdés, Ana Celia Zentella, Franklin Inojosa\*

Session 433, 1/8/11

*The Biggest Piece of the Puzzle: Community Colleges and the Transformation of Language Teaching*

Bette Hirsch, Claire Kramsch, Falk Cammin\*, David Stout\*

We also promoted and supported the following community-college-oriented sessions.

Sponsored by the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College:

Session 275, 1/7/11

*Pedagogical Goals in the Two-Year College*

Session 689, 1/9/11

*Learning Communities*

Miles McCrimmon from our committee was one of the presenters here.

Sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association:

Session 269, 1/7/11

*Teaching Lives: Our Work as Teacher-Scholars in Settings That Focus on Undergraduate Teaching.*

The committee developed and now annually distributes a simple questionnaire to gain a better understanding of who is attending these sessions, how well the programs we develop and promote meet attendees' needs, and what other ideas attendees have for services we can provide to and ways we can better connect with community college colleagues, above and beyond the annual convention.

Under the leadership of Miles McCrimmon, the committee undertook an exciting new initiative to communicate online with community college faculty members and to make an array of relevant resources available to them online. We decided that a wiki would support more nimble and responsive communication, as opposed to a traditional Web site. Though the project is still in its infancy, initial feedback has been quite positive. The committee will continue to promote the wiki and regularly assess its effectiveness.

The committee is supporting several sessions at the upcoming January 2012 convention in Seattle. Again, committee members will distribute questionnaires at each of these sessions to expand contacts and secure feedback from community college colleagues attending the convention. The first two sessions are sponsored by the committee.

**520. Sticker Shock: The Rising Cost of Textbooks**

Shirin Edwin, Falk Cammin\*, and Miles McCrimmon

**161. The Webs We Weave: Online Pedagogy in Community Colleges**

Linda Weinhouse\*, Pamela Sue Hardman, Michael R. Best, Jeremy Ehrlich, Bette G. Hirsch, Kristine Blair

We are also collaborating on these sessions:

**68. What Works? Integrating Culture into First-Year English and Foreign Language Courses** (sponsored by the Community College Humanities Association)  
Steven Alvarez, Michael A. Burke, Antonio Carrillo, Amanda Licastro, Melissa Strong;  
Falk Cammin\* (respondent)

**288. Radical Learning Strategies** (sponsored by the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College)  
Susannah Mary Chewning, Judy Bertonazzi, Robi Rhodes, Shreelina Ghosh

Finally, during our April conference call we identified the following activities and goals for the committee to pursue in 2011–12.

- Set up a joint meeting with the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College at the convention in Seattle and employ more strategies for connecting with other community college colleagues at the convention. Publicize this meeting to all interested parties before the convention and find ever more ways to meet with as many community college colleagues in attendance as possible.
- Offer a session in 2013 on “Economic Literacy as Part of the Writing Curriculum.”
- Address the devastating effects of the latest funding crisis on language and humanities programs in community colleges.
- Identify and disseminate case studies of successful strategies world languages and English programs in community colleges have used to survive and even thrive (e.g., collaborations between English and language programs on the one hand and career, professional, and technical programs on the other.
- Investigate how to build alliances between language and humanities programs in two-year and four-year institutions.
- Bring more community college faculty members into the MLA fold, not only through offerings at the conventions.
- Connect with those in the MLA (staff and members) who are developing “new forms of academic publication” and investigate the applicability of these new forms to the community college professional environment. The committee will meet with Kathleen Fitzpatrick to learn about the new MLA Office of Scholarly Communication.
- At the fall meeting, review the CCC’s original charge and this list of plans, so that committee members will be clear on the committee’s goals and agreed-on strategies for achieving them.

Submitted by David Stout, Portland Community College, CCC Chair, 2010–11