

## Summary of Activities, 2011–12

### MLA Committee on Community Colleges

*The Committee on Community Colleges (CCC) 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.*

2011–12 Members: Falk Cammin (Foothill College, CA), Arturo Davila-Sanchez (Laney College, CA), Eric Devlin (Tarrant County College, TX), Margaret “Betsy” Hanzimanolis (DeAnza College, CA), Roslyn Raney (College of San Mateo, CA), Douglas Rosentrater (Bucks County Community College, PA), Linda Weinhouse (Community College of Baltimore County, MD).

Members of this year’s committee met in person at the MLA office on 10–11 November 2011 and by conference call on 20 January and 16 March 2012. Those members who attended the MLA convention in Seattle in January met and convened with representatives from the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College and the Community College Humanities Association (see details below).

#### **Annual Meeting at the MLA Office in New York**

At the committee’s annual in-person meeting, the committee discussed the data from the questionnaire distributed at the 2011 convention in Los Angeles. Increased attendance of two-year-college faculty members was noted (possibly due to increased outreach efforts). The committee amended the questionnaire to be distributed at the 2012 convention to attendees of community college–sponsored or –related sessions.

The committee decided to dismantle the Wiki (originally created by Miles McCrimmon the year before) after the 2012 convention.

The committee also developed proposals for revisions of the ADFL Guidelines and Policy Statements and the ADE Statement on Faculty Workload of Teachers of Writing.

In an effort to increase outreach to and collaboration and networking with other committees at the convention and beyond, the committee decided once again to extend an

invitation to the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College and the Community College Humanities Association to convene at the convention.

The committee worked on the two sessions that the committee is sponsoring at the 2013 convention:

The Duality of Assessment: Tool of Instruction, Weapon of Destruction (organizing by Eric Devlin)

This Is Not the Ivory Tower: Scholarship at the Community College (organized by Linda Weinhouse)

### **Convention-Related Activities**

At the 2012 convention in Seattle, the committee continued its commitment to providing a vital forum for faculty members at two-year colleges to engage issues facing higher education and to network with their counterparts in four-year teaching institutions. The committee organized the following, well-attended sessions (the names of presenters also serving on the MLA CCC are marked with an asterisk):

161. The Webs We Weave: Assessing Online Pedagogy in Community Colleges  
Linda Weinhouse\*, Pamela Sue Hardman, Michael R. Best, Jeremy Ehrlich, Betty E. Hirsch, Kristine Blair

520. Sticker Shock: The Rising Cost of Textbooks  
Falk Cammin\*, Miles McCrimmon, Shirin E. Edwin, David Stout (presiding)

The committee also collaborated on the following 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  
Responding: Falk Cammin\*

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

As in previous years, the committee distributed a questionnaire at the sessions of interest to two-year-college faculty members to gain a better understanding of the needs and interests of MLA members teaching in community colleges.

This also marked the first year in which members of the MLA Committee on Community Colleges (at the committee's own initiative) met with representatives from the Discussion Group on the Two-Year College and the Community College Humanities Association.

At this meeting, which took place on 5 January 2012, ideas for guaranteed and competitive sessions were reviewed with an eye toward providing sessions with particular pertinence to faculty members at two-year colleges. Those present were unanimous in their desire to continue meeting and collaborating at future MLA conventions.

### **Conference Calls**

During the conference call in January, committee members discussed the data from the 2012 convention survey. The responses to the questionnaire reflected strong interest in a breakfast for two-year-college faculty members, and it was suggested that this might be a useful session to cosponsor. We noted the high interest in technology, online teaching, and teaching composition among questionnaire respondents.

During the conference call in March, members agreed that a discussion of recent changes and attempts at change to the mission of community colleges should be placed on the agenda of the fall 2012 committee meeting.

Submitted by Falk Cammin, Foothill College, MLA CCC Chair, 2011-12