**April 10, 2015**

**ELA Minutes**

**Attended**: Virgil Pierce, UTPA, Colin Charlton, UTPA, Abraham Jimenez, TSC, Melissa Rodriguez, McAllen ISD, Carlos Jimenez, McAllen ISD, Martha Villarreal, McAllen ISD, Enrique Arrendondo, STC, Thane Stroop, Edinburg ISD, Esther Rodriguez, Educate Texas, Melissa Segovia, McAllen ISD, Howard Price, STC, Diana Carcanio, McAllen ISD, Boye Obed Sanchez, TSC, Dr. Shirley Mills, UTPA,

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Mills with introductions and the presentation of the agenda. After that, the group split into ELA and Math VATs.

Introductions were held again because McAllen ISD sent two ELA teachers to the meeting. Howard Price from STC and Obed Sanchez from TSC introduced themselves. They discussed the course outline and relooked at the online book. Colin Charlton was the actual editor of the ELA book for the College prep course. Colin Charlton introduced the course to the McAllen HS teachers who had not ever attended a training, but they are going to introduce it next year in the McAllen High School if possible. It was noted that by using an electronic book, the districts saved money and students were ready to take the college course. The students who take the TSI are prepared to write a 26 lined paper that is TSI ready; while the students who take the College Prep course (CPC) will be prepared for college and university. Teachers did not understand the purpose of the CPC

The McAllen teachers noted that the Gear up program at Region 1 is planning two week training for the college prep and are guaranteeing if students take it they will be granted a waiver. We checked that out and that is not true. None of the professors have been notified and the MOUs were not signed with Region 1. The team explained the course to the two teachers and they are going back to their district ready to talk about the course and explain it to their district and campus leadership teams.

After the teachers left, the professors met for an additional meeting with IHEs.

1. Who issues the waiver: The high school teachers will award. The TEA must make some arrangements with the high schools to place the date the waiver ends.
2. Data gathering is still an issue. We cannot find the people who can get the information.
3. Giving the CEU credit for the training might help get teachers to come to the VAT.
4. It was discussed that if the IRB cannot be given from UTPA, perhaps the IRB can be awarded from STC or TSC.
5. The new MOUs must specify the training and data collection as a mandatory requirement to offer the course.
6. The group needs to target people that are teaching and someone in authority should be mandating this information.
7. Department chairs must be invited to attend the VAT to ensure that the campuses know what their responsibilities are in order to present the course.
8. It was suggested to send a poll to all of the teachers who are teaching the course and try for another day of the week to meet.
9. Wednesdays are possible for the group.
10. Send a letter to the superintendents and ask for their help in getting the courses started. Chairs from each of the math and ELA classes attend the trainings. In addition to the chairs we will ask for the teachers who will teach it.

Respectively submitted by Shirley J. Mills