

SCA

Speaking Across the Curriculum

Issue #16, September 1997

Robert O. Weiss, Editor

CXC Policy History

Background for the National Communication Association Policy Platform Statement on Communication Across the Curriculum (see the May SAC newsletter or the April SPECTRA) has been provided by Sherry Morreale:

The continuing debate about CXC indicated a need for NCA to develop a policy position. In 1991 a 16-person task force was charged to investigate and develop a policy regarding the role of oral communication in the general education curriculum. The committee worked diligently for two years and produced a series of recommendations related to both general education in the curriculum and communication across the curriculum. For the most part their unanimous conclusions were identical to the resolutions just approved by NCA.

In 1995, NCA's Educational Policies Board took up the challenge to what chair, Jo Sprague, describes as "long standing concerns about CXC and the undergraduate general education curriculum." Sprague and EPB members saw a need to identify an SCA policy position on the debatable issues surrounding CXC. Building on the work of the earlier task force, EPB synthesized the new Policy Platform Statement that was then approved by the governing body of the NCA, its Legislative Council.

UNC-CHAPEL HILL

At the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Lisa M. Skow has been appointed to direct a brand new Oral Communication Program that includes a required oral communication course component as well as a speaking-across-the-curriculum component.

The three elements of the program, due to begin in 1998, are (1) a modification of the 2-semester freshman composition course to include both writing and speaking, (2) a speech/rhetoric course for those testing out of the composition courses, and (3) a requirement that

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all students take a speaking-intensive course in their majors.

The program was instituted and funded in response to a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools recommendation that the university implement an oral communication competence element in its undergraduate curriculum.

WHISPERS

- Ann L. Chaney and Tamara R. Burk are the authors of *Teaching Oral Communication in Grades K-12*, published by Allyn and Bacon.
- The new Director of the Writing and Communication Center at Eastern Tennessee State University is Rob Russell, formerly at Virginia Interment College.
- According to Joanna Tapper, a web site for information about the 1998 Australian Communication Skills Conference may be reached at www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/acsc98
- At Hamline University, Patricia Paimerton and a colleague are conducting a study of the ways in which race, ethnicity, and gender affect classroom interaction and the functioning of oral communication.
- Sherry Morreale, NCA Associate Director, is developing a CXC e-mail discussion list. Interested subscribers should send their name and e-mail address to: mvogl@natcom.org

MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE

Superb materials setting forth the organization and rationale for the Speaking-Intensive Program at Mary Washington College are now available at this address: www.mwc.edu/~jmorello/speakint.html

The "news" at Mary Washington College, according to John Morello, is that their program is now officially under way. All students matriculating at the college must take two Speaking-Intensive courses as part of their general education requirements. The third series of faculty development workshops, attended by more than 40 faculty members, was held in May. So far 28 SI courses have been approved and more proposals are under review.

A second faculty member, Dr. Robin Gurien, has been added in Speech Communication.

She will be involved in setting up a new Speaking Center designed to provide information and consultations for students taking SI courses and for faculty members teaching them. She will also teach introductory and advanced speech courses and be a resource person for the Speaking-Intensive Program.

For more information consult the web page described in the above box.

RICHMOND SPEECH CENTER

From the University of Richmond, Linda Hobgood reports that the new Speech Center which she directs has had 536 visits from more than 250 students since it opened last October. Satellite centers are already being set up in the Business School and Leadership School. An informative (and impressive) account of the Speech Center appeared in the Spring issue of the University of Richmond Magazine.

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

Chicago, Illinois. November 19-23, 1997

Thursday, November 20, 4:00-5:15 p.m. A Dialogue: Blueprints for Communication Labs that Address Pedagogical, Assessment, and Accountability Concerns

Chair: Ruth A. Hulbert-Johnson, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Panelists: Steven A. Beebe, Southwest Texas State University; Pamela S. Shockley-Zalabak, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Sherwyn P. Morreale, NCA National Office; Michael W. Cronin, Radford University; George L. Grice, Radford University; Norma L. Flores, Golden West College; Jackie A. Ganschow, Del Mar College.

Friday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Short Course: Oral Communication Across the Curriculum: Designing, Implementing, and Assessing a University-wide Program

Staff: Michael W. Cronin and George L. Grice, Radford University

Note: Short courses require advance registration by October 10 and a \$50.00 fee.

Friday, November 21 1:00-2:15 p.m. Communication at the Center of the Curriculum: Issues in Implementing Communication-Across-the-Curriculum

"Conventions of Presentations: Similarities and Differences across Discourse Communities."

Theodore F. Sheckels, Randolph-Macon College

"Problems and Solutions: Setting Up a Speakers' Lab." Pam Miller, DePauw University.

"Training and Working with Student Tutors in a Speaking-across-the-Curriculum Program."

Paul Sandin, Butler University.

"Problems and Solutions in Assessment in a Speaking-across-the-Curriculum Program."

William W. Neher, Butler University.

Respondent: Patricia R. Palmerton, Hamline University

Saturday, November 22, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. K-12 Teacher's Workshop

The K-12 Teacher's Workshop is an all-day workshop to be taken as a block, with a \$60.00 fee. One session in the afternoon is to be devoted to "Speaking and Listening Across the Curriculum."

Presentations at this session will be given by Pamela Cooper, Northwestern University, John Heinemann, Lincoln High School (Nebraska), Adrian Frana, Rich East High School (Park Forest, IL), and Morris Snively, Belleville East High School (Illinois).