April 28, 2015

Dear Hartnell Community:

Noncredit courses can serve a population that Hartnell is currently not reaching. This combined with the State’s new policy of funding credit and noncredit courses equally makes noncredit an important issue. The new equal funding will be available for Career Development and College Preparation (CDCP) categories: ESL, Math/English Basic Skills, GED, short-term CTE with high employment potential, and apprenticeships.

FYI--Legislative Analyst Office (LAO) recommendations from 2012 (most of the student success initiatives currently mandated were included in this document) would make all ESL and English below transfer level, and all math more than one level below transfer level noncredit. Clearly, this is not merely an ESL issue

However, Hartnell is currently

(1) not following the course outline of record for noncredit courses. This is a legal document and not following it shows lack of respect for the work and decisions of the Curriculum Committee. Specifically, the ESL noncredit outlines list a master’s degree in ESL or the equivalent as a minimum qualification. The administration says it will ignore this and hire instructors with less than this qualification, and follow the State’s minimum qualifications.

(2) The administration is currently paying a noncredit ESL instructor $30/hour.

The ESL Department has refused to participate in hiring of noncredit instructors until the above two conditions are negotiated rather than being dictated by the administration.

We ask you not to support noncredit courses until pay rates have been negotiated and administration hires instructors with minimum qualifications as indicated in the course outlines of record.

Sincerely,

ESL Faculty
James Beck
Carol King