

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
UNIVERSITY WRITING COMMITTEE
AY 2004-2005

Presented at the
643rd Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
September 22, 2005

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Lee Badgett, *ex officio*
Maria J. Botelho
Genevieve E. Chandler
Diane Chase, *graduate student rep.*
John Cunningham, *ex officio*
J. Michael Davis
Lisa Day, *undergraduate student rep.*
D. Dina Friedman, Chair
Holly Lawrence
Donna LeCourt, *ex officio*
Ernest May, *ex officio*
Jose Mestre
Stephen Olbrys

During the 2004-2005 academic year, the University Writing Committee met six times. We enjoyed a full membership; however, we will need to recruit two faculty, as well as undergraduate and graduate representatives to begin next year.

Our key task was to establish a protocol and begin preliminary work for the First Year Program review, which will be conducted in 2005-2006. We also worked on two new initiatives: to determine the writing support needs of graduate students, and to begin a campus-wide effort to encourage writing for public discourse among both students and faculty.

Following are highlights of the UWC's accomplishments this year:

- **First Year Program Review** – Attached are the plans the UWC has adopted for the upcoming First Year Program Review. Student portfolios have been collected in preparation for next year's review.
- **Graduate Student Support Initiative** – A short list of questions has been developed. We are currently working on obtaining sources of funding for extensive student outreach and data analysis.
- **Writing for Public Discourse** – We are planning a one-day workshop for faculty on writing for public audiences, to take place in Fall 2005. We hope to follow this with more workshops the following semester, and to work with interested faculty to coordinate how to best bring this into the classroom. Our ultimate goal is a campus-wide celebration of public discourse.

In addition, the University Writing Committee made decisions on the following items:

- Appointed Ginny Chandler as JYWP Director for '05-'06
- Reviewed the current bylaws pertaining to the UWC and voted not to recommend changes at this time.
- Approved changes to the Junior Year Writing Course in the Astronomy and Engineering Departments.

There are two items of note concerning the individual writing programs: The First Year Writing Program hired Deirdre Vinyard as Deputy Director. The Junior Year Writing Program sponsored a workshop in January 2005 to help new instructors with syllabi, and a spring conference in April 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Dina Friedman
Chair

PLANS FOR FIRST YEAR PROGRAM REVIEW: 2005-2006

(1) Analysis of Student Portfolios

We will randomly select 3-4 instructors with 0-1 years of experience; 3-4 instructors with 1-2 years of experience, and 3-4 instructors with 2-3 years of experience. We will request that each of these instructors provide us with 3 portfolios: one from a student at the top of the class, one from a student in the middle range, and one from a student who is at the bottom of the class.

(2) Review of Overall Evaluation Statistics

(3) Examination of How the Curriculum is Working (Review of Curriculum Documents)

(4) Group Interviews

- One meeting with a focus group of Course Directors
- One meeting with a randomly selected group of English 112 TOs with varying ranges of experience
- One meeting with a focus group of English 111 TOs

(5) Qualitative Interviews with Administrative Staff

(6) Review of Writing Center Statistics and Meeting with a Group of Writing Center Tutors

ACTION STEP FOR SPRING 2005: Collect Portfolios