

University Writing Committee Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2018, 1-2:15pm
Du Bois Library, Room 1327

Members present: Laura Hartenberger, Casey Kelleher, Kate Freedman, Herman Fong, Jenny Krichevsky, Becky Miller, Ginny Chandler, Matt Moore, Evan Ross, Deb McCutchen

I. Review of the Minutes from March 2, 2018

Motion to approve (Kate); motion approved with 2 abstentions.

II. Best Text Contest

Laura, Herman, Becky, Jenny, and Kate are judges. Decision due by 4/20/18.

III. Report on Mutual Mentoring Grant

Grant accepted; Grant committee was very excited about the proposal; now MMG committee just has to set up a timeline, and will share with UWC when they figure it out.

IV. Course reviews: Minor course change to BIOCHEM 430H (Proposal #4893)

The following are present on the syllabus:

- College Writing Prerequisite
- Assignment structure (Seems WID)
- Multiple drafts with instructor & peer feedback
- Course description
- Brief descriptions and due dates for all writing assignments
- Stylebook
- Grading Criteria
- Information Literacy

Career Development seems limited to oral Elevator Pitches.

Further clarification is needed from Biochem, including: Class Size & Total Page Count. Some description may be needed about how feedback emphasizes: "Global issues ... over surface level mechanical issues." It would be helpful to have a copy of the collaborative Lit Review assignment and its components to determine how it utilizes "high-stakes" and "low-stakes" writing and addresses: "Multiple advanced discipline-specific genres of writing for a variety of purposes and audiences."

Becky clarified page quantity and class size.

- Evan: Discussion around revision work as counting for page numbers is something UWC has broached during QQ before; something to put a pin and bring up for the next round of QQs
- Kate: Maybe increase revision and reduce page requirements for JYW.
- Evan and Deb: Questions around assignment page count has been answered; however in the future, we have to figure out what constitutes a minor and major course change.
 - Could this be something to bring up to Faculty Senate
- Motion to pass Biochem430H course change (Evan); motion passed.

V. Report on March Workshop

- Information Literacy: scaffolding the research process as much as we scaffold the writing process. Good conversation.
- Colloquium format received very positively and seems to appeal to attendees; can go along well with MMG workshops that will be coming up.
- Next workshop is April 25th, and topic is “Teaching Writing-Intensive Courses with Students’ Writing Difference in Mind”

VI. Course Review checklist

Please see attached draft checklist-- is it a useful structured list for us to review JYW classes? Comments:

- Specify double-spaced page count; clarify that CW pre-req (on syllabus, not just on Spire).
- “Global writing issues of mechanical issues emphasized”--> how can reviewers determine that? Could we move this line from Feedback section to Assignment structure section.
- Some more possible changes to discuss at a later meeting:
 - Ginny: evidence supports that instructors should provide assignment samples-- should we require that of departments submitting new course proposals?
 - Kate: do we evaluate online courses the same way as f2f courses? Bio have online JYW courses we could look at.

VII. Planning for First Year Writing Program review

- Possible framing of review goals:
 - National comparison; multilingual student support; multimodal writing
 - Teaching the research process; technology use
 - Student impressions (broad survey of Sophomores who completed FYW recently)
- Reevaluating Philosophy of Program through:
 - Student perspective survey (Sophomore and Senior?)
 - Program organization comparison
 - National WP curriculum comparison
 - Do student perspectives align with UMass WP current goals and philosophy?
- **Disconnect between JYW and FYW: is it a good thing or a bad thing?**
 - **Measuring new teachers’ anxiety around teaching? How do grad student teachers value teaching FYW?**
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Please see model assessments for George Mason University and University of Kentucky.

<http://wpacouncil.org/GeorgeMason>

<http://wpacouncil.org/UK>

Meeting adjourned 2:25pm.