

Meeting of the University Writing Committee—

Minutes April 21, 2017 1:00-2:15pm

Campus Center 805-[09 – 1:00 pm](#)

I. Called to order at 1:07pm

Members in attendance: Herman Fong, Kristin Bock, Michelle Trim, Deb McCutchen, Kelin Loe, Jenny Krichevsky (Minutes), Dina Navon, Michael Roberts, Kate Freedman, Carolyn Chen

II. Approval of the Minutes

- Amend Carol's comment in the March minutes (make more specific re: Gen Ed + JYW)
- Amend: Michelle's comment: JUDNEA: "if you restrict JYW req to only their department, and offer it every two years, would it help the #s"
- Minutes approved with amendments.

III. Recap of Summit - observations, discussion of feedback

- Michelle: Maybe have a more diverse group of speakers next time: have representation from more STEM; folks who came from STEM want more conversation about disciplinary writing
- Deb: Maybe have workshops that facilitate similar small group work and conversations on disciplinary writing
- Kate: summit felt more like a town hall, but the conversations that did happen during that were more than just what would have relevance to the report; creative teaching salons (includes food)-- some issues (same people usually show up)-- not spearheaded by faculty
 - Using salons as topic points for JYW
 - Kate can talk to TEFD and IT and let UWC know
- Dina: a monthly cross-disciplinary meeting for people to talk about pedagogy for teaching writing?
- Send to attendees a thank you and a FYI that we will be framing teaching salons around teaching writing in the disciplines
- Ask Math to resubmit JYW syllabus in a sneaky way?
 - Would the Senate back us up?(Deb)
 - Michelle: UWC charge is to provide "oversight" for WP-- we ought to find out what the oversight is.

IV. Review of Spanish 312 (Ginny, Deborah, Alice)

- Spanish 312 had never been passed; Senate came down fast and hard on course.
 - Michelle: Class size data as an opening to ask questions of departments regarding syllabi; Dina-- we need to figure how to make sure courses are practicing according to JYW reqs/standards
 - Michelle: we need to stop conflating the nursing model with "large class size" model; nursing is also not a funding-conservative mode, since it is no longer true that grad student teaching models are cheaper (though it used to be over a decade ago).
 - Deb + Michelle: A lot of departments are strapped for cash, which should go on the report; also include the argument for increasing the JYW to reflect the ways in which the cost of operations has grown since 2008 (increasing salaries, etc).
 - Kate: NIASC accreditation as a rationale for this

- Course seems to have constant review and revision; but no obvious info lit
- Deb-- make the motion for contingency approval:
 - JYW made on syllabus; CW as prereq on spire; clarification low-stakes writing and instructor feedback; and info lit and actual assignment detail (length and description)

V. Discussion of Assessment/Metrics for the JYW Review Report

- Michelle met with Martha Stassen, who said she'd be willing to do aggregate SRTI data; the numbers don't have value unless you have something to compare it to: Michelle suggested comparing the JYW courses to all other 300 level courses.
- Ethos of JYW is that it should be part of your major, even though it doesn't feel like a core course for students.
- Compare to IE and campus average?
- NSSE: Seniors graduating in 2014 were asked "how much does your experience at this institution contribute to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in WRITING CLEARLY AND EFFECTIVELY?"; data shows student perceptions of writing skills gained in each major
- 3-yr aggregate survey of graduating seniors, "satisfaction with your major"-- (comparison between departments rather than colleges)
- Michelle will save this data as files and distribute to committee

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment (2:25)