

Meeting of the University Writing Committee—Minutes

January 22, 2016

1:00-2:15pm

Called to order at 1:05pm

Members in attendance: David Bartone, Deb McCutchen, Alice Cheung, Judy Goodenough, Herman Fong, Susan Ware, Haivan Hoang, Kate Freedman, Dani Kodess, Travis Grandy (Minutes)

- I. **Review of the Minutes from Dec. 11, 2015**
 - a. Approved without amendment
- II. **Topics for Spring Semester JYW Workshops**
 - a. Peer Review
 - b. Grading/Feedback
 - c. Workshop dates: 2/12/16 and 3/4/16
 - d. Please contact Haivan if you're interested in presenting.
- III. **JYW Course Substitution Policy**
 - a. Generally, students should be taking JYW at UMass Amherst, and make specific exceptions. After feedback from the Registrar and Provost Office, Haivan drafted the current version of the policy. The UWC will be monitoring whether certain departments are forwarding an unreasonable amount of requests.
 - b. Circumstances can be somewhat anomalous for when students need exceptions such as medical leave or returning for a second baccalaureate degree.
 - c. Decision: **Approved**. The chair will forward this policy as a special report to the faculty senate for final approval.
- IV. **Information Literacy Framework**
 - a. Kate Freedman introduced a new framework for information literacy that have been adopted by the Association for College and Research Libraries. This framework is responding to the changing to information literacy practices and remaining relevant to the educational missions of universities.
 - b. Changed from standards to a framework to draw out central concepts for students to know as part of acquiring information literacy.
 - c. Discussion:
 - i. Does this framework translate well to STEM and other fields?
 - ii. What challenges do students face in evaluating authority of sources and does this vary by discipline?
- V. **JYWP QQ Reviews**
 - a. [#1977 COMM-DIS 330 - Writing In Comdis](#)
This proposal was sent back for revision and now includes updated materials.
 - i. Discussion: Summary of changes, instructor feedback on each assignment, and the course meets the minimum number of written pages.
 - ii. Decision: **Approved**. Notes to communicate that the JYW requirement on the syllabus.
 - b. [#2540 ARCH 370 - Junior Year Writing Program](#)
 - i. Decision: **Contingent Approval**. Clarify page counts for assignments.

Next meeting will be on Feb. 19, 2016 in Bartlett 316.