

# Meeting of the University Writing Committee—Minutes

February 19, 2016

1:00-2:15pm

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Called to order at 1:10 pm

Members in attendance: Kelin Loe, Evan Ross, Alice Cheung, Deb McCutchen, Julie Hemment, Kate Freedman, MJ Peterson, Kristin Bock, Herman Fong, Judy Goodenough, Dina Navon, Travis Grandy (Minutes), Haivan Hoang, Michelle Trim.

- I. **Review of the Minutes from Jan. 22, 2016**  
Amended the spelling of Haivan's name. **Approved.**
- II. **Discussion of Fall 2016 UWC Chair**  
Kate shared that she will be stepping down as chair at the end of Spring Semester. Judy also announced her retirement at the end of the summer. If members have interest in serving as chair, please email [uwritingcommittee@acad.umass.edu](mailto:uwritingcommittee@acad.umass.edu). The committee will also be looking for additional members to fill vacant positions.
- III. **JYWP QQ Reviews**  
Travis Grandy shared the history of the proposals and summarized the Theater Department's requirements for JYW.
  - a. [#2673 THEATER 397R - Contemporary Repertory: Africa](#)
    - i. Discussion: There was some disparity between the form questions and syllabi. Reviewers raised some questions about information literacy and career development.
    - ii. Decision: **Approved.** 1 abstention.
  - b. [#2672 THEATER 397V - ST-Stage Tricksters from Renaissance to Today](#)
    - i. Discussion: Reviewers summarized writing assignments, and asked about peer review, teacher feedback, and revision. The syllabus doesn't list a handbook.
    - ii. Decision: **Send back for revision.** Asking about revision, feedback, and handbook.
  - c. [#2670 THEATER 320 - Classical Repertory](#)
    - i. Discussion: Reviewers said the class met basic requirements, although it was unclear how much revision and feedback.
    - ii. Decision: **Approved.** 1 abstention.
  - d. [#2669 THEATER 330 - American Theater](#)
    - i. Discussion: The course has the same structure as 320 and taught by the instructor. Reviewers summarized that the assignments met basic requirements. The committee discussed what genres make sense for particular departments. The requirement is intended to support advanced writing in the discipline, but departments can approach this differently. The Chair shared that this might be a good question for the committee to pursue during the program review starting next year.
    - ii. Decision: **Approved.**
  - e. [#2671 THEATER 397K - ST-Multicultural Theater & the Latino Exp](#)
    - i. Discussion: Reviewers asked about whether there was a writing handbook listed. The course also includes information literacy.
    - ii. Decision: **Contingent Approval.** 1 abstention. Ask for clarification about what the course uses for a style guide.
  - f. [#2668 THEATER 335 - Hip Hop Theater](#)
    - i. Discussion: Reviewers asked questions about response assignments and whether these are revised.
    - ii. Decision: **Contingent Approval.** 1 abstention. Clarify what the course uses for a style guide and the details for the "Community Based Event" assignment (ask for assignment sheet) and the total number of pages of polished prose.

- g. [#2550 SUSTCOMM 394A - Seminar- Writing in Environmental Design and Landscape Architecture](#)
  - i. Discussion: Reviewers appreciated the mix of assignments, emphasis on peer review and feedback, and asked about the total page count, and how the class is structured including the total number of students per section. Deb shared that in communication with the department, they plan to change the structure of sections based on staffing needs.
  - ii. Decision: **Send back for revision.** Clarify page count/rationale, and inquire about the course structure going forward for class size/sections and role of TA.

IV. **Announcements:**

Upcoming workshop on 3/25

Celebration of Writing on 4/3

Starting in the Fall, the UWC will be conducting a review of the JYW Program as a whole. See the past program review here: <https://www.umass.edu/senate/sites/default/files/University-Writing-Committee-Junior-Year-Writing-Program-Review-2007-2008.pdf>

**Next meeting will be on Mar. 25, 2016 in Bartlett 256.**