

Called to order at 1:00pm

Members in attendance: David Bartone, Kate Freedman, Herman Fong, Judy Goodenough, Travis Grandy (Minutes), Haivan Hoang, Dani Kodess, Molly Lehman, Deb McCutchen, Dina Navon, Evan Ross,

- I. **Review of the Minutes from February 20, 2015**
Approved without amendment.
- II. **Workshop Recap:**
Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Junior Year Writing Course Design, Monday, March 2, 2015
Haivan summarized the workshop: Beth Jakobs, Molly Lehman, and Megan Lewis. There were about 25 attendees. Each department organizes their course differently, and the presenters offered three diverse perspectives. Deb added that there were very dynamic conversations happening in small groups.
- III. **JYWP QQ Reviews**
 - a. **[#1758 - Chem 391A - Writing in Chemistry](#)**
 - i. Discussion: The syllabus is 15 pages, although it didn't explicitly list the JYW requirement and the 112 prerequisite. It was difficult to assess the total page count of assignments. In past circumstances, we've allowed departments to make a case for the total number pages provided students have regular opportunities to write and revise and get feedback. The committee debated whether we should change the question on the QQ form to solicit rationales when departments are under the 20-25 page range. The class clearly promotes writing within the discipline.
 - ii. Decision: **Approved contingent** on adding JYW requirement to syllabus and asking the department about explaining the rationale for number of written pages.
 - b. **[#1757 - Bio 312 - Writing in Biology](#)**
 - i. Discussion: Reviewers noticed some minor details with each syllabus about the JYW requirement, specific page counts for assignments. Perhaps we could provide some general guidelines. One reviewer felt the QQ form lays out the rationale really well. Perhaps we could recommend to the department to develop more clear guidelines to ensure consistency across sections. The committee expressed questions and concerns of evaluating the amount of written work, especially in disciplines that value concise writing.
 - ii. Decision: **Send back for revision** on adding JYW requirement to syllabus and asking the department about explaining the rationale for number of written pages, listing the page count, suggesting establishing department wide guidelines for the course (The department does list course goals on its website). We also want more information about consistency between sections.
 - c. **[#1713 - Math 370 - Writing in Mathematics](#)**
 - i. Discussion:
 - ii. Decision: **Tabled until next meeting**
 - d. **[#1692 - Italian 303 - Writing on Language](#)**
 - i. Discussion:
 - ii. Decision: **Tabled until next meeting**
 - e. **[#1765 - Sociol 301 - Writing in Sociology](#)**
 - i. Discussion: Haivan has been in contact with this department. As context, this department has in the past been using course numbers for a JYW course and sometimes not. After talking to them, they've agreed to propose a new course. The course number is 301, and they've submitted syllabi to represent special topics in the course. One reviewer had a question whether the 387 class will still be offered as-is.

Second, does the department have guidelines for consistency of objectives across sections. It seems that it would be helpful to clarify that one of the courses also satisfies a gen-ed requirement. Haivan has contacted the registrar and the Gen-Ed council about whether there is an existing policy to this effect.

- ii. Decision: **Ask for more information** Contact the department with the three questions mentioned by reviewer 2, and request departmental guidelines for how they would ensure consistency of JYW across sections.

IV. Special Report: Proposed Policy On Junior Year Writing Course Substitution And College Writing Prerequisite To All Junior Year Writing Courses

- a. See attached revision at end of agenda
- b. Decision: **Approved** without objection.

V. Policy Discussion: JYW/Gen Ed Courses?

- a. Discussion: Members felt that this was okay, but try to craft some language in case there are situations where the spirit of the course being followed. It was unclear whether Gen-Ed has made a definitive decision about this. There is an existing requirement that you can only use one Gen-Ed class for a major and gen-ed requirement. The JYW requirement is a major and university requirement. Because the class is supposed to be disciplinary, it would make sense to it to count for only the major. It may not be technically possible for the Registrar to handle a class counting for either requirement.
- b. Can a JYW course also hold a Gen Ed designation?(preferably either-or)

VI. Discussion of Sen. Doc. No. 82-057:

["Special Report of the Academic Matters Council Concerning a University Writing Program"](http://www.umass.edu/senate/fs_docs/SEN_DOC_NO_82-057_WRITING_PROG.pdf)
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Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Next meeting will be on 4/17 in Bartlett 316.

SPECIAL REPORT
of the
UNIVERSITY WRITING COMMITTEE
concerning
PROPOSED POLICY ON JUNIOR YEAR WRITING COURSE SUBSTITUTION AND COLLEGE WRITING
PREREQUISITE TO ALL JUNIOR YEAR WRITING COURSES

Presented at the
_____ Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
_____ / _____

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Katherine Freedman, Chair 2014
Deborah McCutchen, ex officio
Haivan Hoang, ex officio
Carol Barr, ex officio
Ernest May, ex officio
David Bartone
Susan Ware
Alice Cheung
Kristin Bock
Judith Goodenough
Evan Ross
Molly Lehman
Rebecca L. Leonard
Christiane Healey
Herman Fong
Michelle Trim
Alex Phillips
Dina Navon
Dani Kodess
Travis Grandy

Establishing College Writing as a prerequisite for all Junior Year Writing Courses

The University Writing Committee proposes that College Writing be made a prerequisite for all Junior Year Writing Courses. College Writing is already a general education requirement and is fundamental to the process of preparing students for writing at the college level. This course is intended to be taken before students pursue advanced writing in their disciplines, especially before satisfying the Junior Year Writing requirement.

Establishing a course substitution policy for the Junior Year Writing course requirement

The University Writing Committee proposes the following course substitution policy:

“The University’s policy is that the Junior Year Writing requirement must be fulfilled by taking an approved JYW course at UMass. Under exceptional circumstances; an upper-level writing course in the specified discipline, taken outside of UMass, may be substituted. However, for this substitution to be approved by the UWC, the department must demonstrate a compelling need: explain how the course meets all requirements of a UMass JYW course; and submit a copy of the syllabus of the proposed substituted course for approval.”

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the Special Report of the University
____-____ Writing Committee, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. ____-____.