

University Writing Committee
Minutes of Meeting on March 14, 2014

Present: Deb McCutchen (Chair), Travis Grandy, Reagan Eckler, Haivan Hoang (ex officio), Judith Holmes (ex officio), Matt Ferrari (note taker), Kate Freedman, Christiane Healey, David Bartone, Betsy McEneaney, Rebecca Lorimer.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. Brief introduction of members.
3. Haivan presented briefly on changes to Faculty Senate's website. They are using Drupal to change permissions so that UWC can make its own updates. Editing permissions will be given to chair of UWC, thus able to post meeting minutes, etc.
4. Judy presented on the online system launch of the JYW QQ review. We can review the pilot by May 2. When courses are submitted they come to Judy, and she can work with the department, then two additional subcommittee members of UWC do a final review. Or, "two individual voices" will review them. Some clarifications on the review process. This will happen on the May 2nd meeting, provided we get everything back. Usually takes about a year to get QQ's back. When the 5 QQ reports come back, Judy will send them to us all electronically. Because this is a work in progress, it still remains to be seen exactly how well it will work out at first as kinks are worked out. Departments should send a representative sample of JYW course, or send more if necessary. Departments choose what to submit for review. Course review is by course number.
5. Review of new JYW course approval (Linguistics). Course is currently running, so we are doing a retroactive review. Judy thinks it is a good proposal and course. Judy made some recommendations: That they make College Writing (Eng112) a prerequisite for taking the course. Also, it might be useful to see more revision work with final paper requirement. Travis raised question about use of exams and peer review with the course. Judy remarks that it is a content course that they are adding writing to in order to make it a JYW course. Discussion of how to balance fulfillment of JYW requirements with specific demands of the discipline's (linguistics) content. It is noted that the course objectives section does not actually say anything about writing – course objectives are content focused. Christiane made final point that she feels there is not sufficient opportunity for feedback on drafts of students' writing in the course. Committee votes to approve the course.
6. Review of first workshop evaluation summaries from "Giving Effective Feedback on Student Work." Twenty people signed up for course. 25 or so showed up. Only two members of UWC attended. Judy went through key recommendations from the summaries. It is reported that overall the workshop went well. Judy noted that attendance used to be slightly higher.

7. Discussion of next workshop, Designing & Sequencing Writing Assignments. Discussion on finding one additional presenter, keeping presenters to prescribed time limit, etc.
8. Discussion UWC's official policy on approving non-UMass courses to fulfill JYW requirement. Judy presented issue in CNC with problematic approvals where advisors had told students that a course would substitute for a JYW course where they should not have. (Issue was based on error, administrators wrongly telling students an STCC course would sub for JYW). The UWC needs to revise policy language to avoid this issue moving forward. Short discussion on the policy's intended function with respect to how departments and advisors will use (or abuse) it. Judy and Haivan will revise the policy language and bring it to next meeting for review.

Meeting adjourned 2:25 pm.