

Meeting of the University Writing Committee—Minutes

March 25, 2016

1:00-2:15pm

Called to order at 1:05 PM.

Members in attendance: Kelin Loe, David Bartone, Rebecca Dingo, Deb McCutchen, Judy Goodenough, Julie Hemment, Herman Fong, Haivan Hoang, Evan Ross, Dina Navon, Dani Kodess, Travis Grandy (Minutes), Michelle Trim, Susan Ware

I. Review of the Minutes from Feb. 19, 2016

Approved without objection

II. JYWP QQ Reviews

a. [#2708 PORTUG 312 - Advanced Composition](#)

i. Discussion: Reviewers felt the course was thorough, lots of opportunities for peer review and feedback.

ii. Decision: **Approved.**

b. [#2849 BDIC 496C - Junior Year Writing in Interdisciplinary Studies](#)

i. Discussion: Reviewers noted that there were some differences between the JYW forms and the syllabi. The syllabi should note JYW requirement, and styleguide. Prof. Ware shared some context for the course including how students choose a formatting style consistent with their discipline.

ii. Decision: **Approved** with a note to ways the syllabus can be adjusted in the future to describe the requirement for the style guide and mentioning the requirement, and the course needs a permanent number. (Susan Ware abstaining)

c. [#2502 THEATER 331 - Black Theatre](#)

i. Discussion: Reviewers wanted more information about page counts, and the difference between low stakes and high stakes assignments.

ii. Decision: **Send back for more information.** Ask for assignment page lengths, and a statement and when students receive feedback from the instructor.

d. [#2987 ART-HIST 370 - ART-HIST 370 - Jr Year Writing Program](#)

i. Discussion: Reviewers asked about the consistency because the department provided one example syllabus. Reviewers described a blend of genres of writing assignments, including lower stakes responses, and definitely a lot of polished writing. Given the instructor's responses to the questionnaire, it would make sense to do some outreach to the department.

ii. Decision: **Approved.** The follow-up email should mention the funding structure for JYW.

e. [#2698 CHINESE 391G - Sem-Jr Yr Writ Prog](#)

i. Discussion: Reviewers thought assignments were well-mapped to professional development and well-sequenced, the questionnaire mentions page lengths.

ii. Decision: **Approved.**

f. [#1692 ITALIAN 303 - Writing On Lang](#)

i. Discussion: Reviewers noted that the revised class meets all expectations.

ii. Decision: **Approved.**

III. Announcements:

a. Celebration of Writing on April 3

IV. Junior Year Writing Program Review:

a. 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>

b. Discussion: Deb and Haivan shared context for the program review, as well as questions about the audience of this review and outreach. This review also would also give the committee perspective on how the requirement is interpreted, teaching structure, and perhaps need for more funding.

Next meeting will be on Apr. 15, 2016 in Bartlett 256.