

WI Committee Meeting January 27, 2012

Attendance:

Brooke Di Lauro

Surupa Gupta

Gwendolyn Hale

Joe Nicholas

Mary Rigsby

The meeting began at 3:01pm.

- The committee discussed a proposal for new writing intensive guidelines. The underlying logic of the proposal is that almost all Writing Intensive courses at UMW require that students write more than the 12 pages that are required for WI designation. If we are requiring our students to write more, then that should get reflected in the Writing Intensive program description and requirements. A further basis for this is to see what peer institutions (COPLAC, SCHEV lists) are doing. Gwen provided information on some of their requirements. The committee decided to move on this issue only after viewing the completed lists from COPLAC schools and SCHEV schools. Gwen will work on completing those lists.
- The committee also discussed whether to add informal writing to the requirements for a Writing Intensive course. All agreed that including informal writing is a good idea.
- The committee discussed whether students need more writing in lower-level courses, such as FSEMs. In this context, it further discussed surveying faculty to assess how well faculty feel students are prepared to write. Schools can teach writing through the following programs: freshman writing, writing across curriculum (WAC) and writing within the discipline (WID). Many schools have all three of these. UMW has WAC and WID but it no longer requires freshman writing. Many students come to third year writing intensive courses without ever taking much writing in their first and second years. Does faculty view this as a problem, now that the current writing requirements have been in place for a few years?
- The committee also discussed a writing sequence independent of the English department. This could be a “writing within the discipline” course targeted to freshmen/sophomores. There was no agreement on this discussion.

- The committee considered topics for the Faculty Workshop this year. The faculty responded that they wanted incorporating informal writing to at least be one component of the workshop.
- The committee discussed the assessment process for the WI program. Some faculty suggested inserting sample essays into the final report that exemplified excellent, satisfactory, or poor writing. The committee, as a whole, agreed that this should be done. The committee would consider the question of the narrative after looking at the sample essays.

The next meeting will be February 20, 2012 at 4:00pm. The meeting adjourned at 4:30.