

## **Minutes of the Writing Intensive Committee**

**August 29, 2018 1 PM**

**Writing Center, HCC 430**

Members Present: Caitie Finlayson (Assistant, CAS), Sushma Subramanian (Assistant, CAS), Randall Helmstutler (Associate, CAS), Laura Bylenok (Assistant, CAS), Emily Stanley (Assistant, CAS), Gwen Hale (Ex-Officio Member, Director of the Writing Center and Writing Program)

I. Update from the Director of the Writing Program – We were briefed on an effort that has been ongoing to collect data in order to assess the effectiveness of the current WI requirement. It was noted that in the past essays from FSEMs were compared with those from Capstone classes, but this did not allow for a very fine grained analysis. The current project is examining written work from ENGL 202 classes which are taken by students at all grade levels which makes them a good opportunity to look at the writing of students at various points during their time at UMW and after completing varying numbers of WI courses. Students writing samples are being provided by instructors of those courses and the student's class and number of previous WI courses are being provided by the registrar's office. The hope is to collect this data for several years in order to draw some conclusions about how well the current WI requirement is meeting the goals of the program. It was noted that this may be relevant for the Gen Ed discussion this year.

The committee raised concerns that it seems like a lot of students end up taking a lot of their WI courses at the end of their time at UMW. It was also noted that there are not a lot of options to take WI courses in first few years. We discussed that last year we were successful at encouraging faculty who are not in the humanities to submit courses for approval as WI. Hopefully having more options will encourage students to take WI courses throughout their time at UMW.

It was announced that Thursday, September 13 will be a WI your Syllabus Workshop. Members of the committee were encouraged to attend.

II. Scheduling of WI proposal due dates – The following deadlines were agreed upon for the 2018-2019 academic year:

- Spring 2019 courses: proposals should be received by September 7, 2018
- Summer 2019 courses: proposals should be received by November 2, 2018
- Fall term 2019 courses: proposals should be received by January 18, 2019

III. Scheduling of Fall 2018 meetings – The following WI committee meeting times were agreed upon for the Fall 2018 Semester:

- September 17, 2018 at 1:00 PM in the Writing Center
- November 14, 2018 at 1:00 PM in the Writing Center

IV. Updates to the website – A suggestion was made to add the new positions, remove empty pages and include some new proposals to the website. There was general agreement that this was a good idea. Dr. Hale is currently the only one with access to the website, so she volunteered to make the changes. We discussed giving the committee officers the ability to edit the website, and Dr. Hale was open to that. We agreed to add two proposals that were submitted in the new format – one from Computer Science and one from History – in order to represent submissions from a variety of departments.

V. Sequence of the WI Approval Process – A concern was raised about the timing of WI courses being approved by the Committee and then by the UFC in relation to the timeline of scheduling courses for the next semester. It was noted that if a course is pending WI approval it can hold up the course scheduling process. We were unsure if this is a common problem faced across different departments. Dr. Helmstutler agreed to ask if this is a common concern at the chairs meeting in order to see if this is an issue we want to address as a committee.

Meeting adjourned: 1:45pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Stanley  
August 30, 2018