

**Minutes
GWAR Committee
USU 311
1:30 – 3 PM**

**Meeting Number 11
March 2, 2012**

In attendance: Gary Griswold, Linda Sarbo, Rebekha Abbuhl, Colleen Dunagan, Diana Hines, Bron Pellissier, Rick Tuveson, Susan Platt, Mark Wiley, and Nathan Jensen

1. **Approval of agenda. MSP.**
2. **Minutes of meeting on February 17, 2012. MSP.**
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. If you are a member and your term expires this semester but you would like to continue, please fill out your senate committee preference form as soon as possible.
 - b. There is a WPE reading tomorrow.
 - c. Testing, Evaluation and Assessment finished the Collegiate Learning Assessment with the seniors this year. The Chancellor would like the CLA to continue each year.
4. **Policy draft:**
 - a. It has been submitted to the CEPC, and the committee will definitely be addressing it at their April meetings, if not before.
5. **Countries whose students are exempt from the GPE – revisiting the list:**
 - a. The list was created by Nathan Jensen at the Center for International Education.
 - b. For every one of these countries English is the official language. Many of them are multilingual, but English is the official language of the government and of higher education.
 - c. In most other countries it is the government who runs the accreditation process.
 - d. According to Nathan, a few hundred of the 3,000 international students (undergrad and grad) who apply come from the countries on this list.
 - e. The committee expressed its approval of the list.
6. **GWAR Coordinator's report:**
 - a. Cynthia Pastrana, Carla Nader, and Linda met with tutors at the Writers Resource Lab (for GWAR portfolio courses) . It was reported to be very valuable.

- b. Next Friday is the GVAR instructors' workshop. The participation looks good and the topic is responding to students' writing. They will be showing the film that Nancy Sommers showed at her workshop and then discussing issues in responding to student writing. The workshop will be in the conference room at the University Center for Undergraduate Advising from 1 pm to 3 pm.
- c. Linda asked if the committee would consider the possibility of no longer accepting scores from the analytical writing test of the GMAT. The GMAT used to be owned by the same organization that owns the GRE and ETS, but it was sold a couple of years ago. The GMAT website indicates that it is currently owned by the GMAC (Graduate Management Admissions Council). Her concern is that the scoring may be too easy because only 19% of the students taking the test have scored lower than a 4.
 - i. She would like to make a motion that we remove the GMAT from the list of alternate forms of assessment, which would mean making an amendment to the current policy or asking the Executive committee for an exception to policy. Motion to discontinue the GMAT as an alternate form of assessment as of June 1. MSP.

Adjourned at 2:16 PM

Submitted by

Colleen Dunagan

(These minutes were approved on 3/16/12)

Minutes
GWAR Committee
USU 311
1:30 – 3 PM

Meeting Number 12
March 16, 2012

In attendance: Linda Sarbo, Rebekha Abbuhl, Colleen Dunagan, Diana Hines, Rick Tuveson, Susan Platt, Mark Wiley, Nathan Jensen, Jose Espeleta

1. **Approval of agenda.** MSP.
2. **Minutes of meeting on March 2, 2012.** MSP.
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. The committee expressed its profound gratitude to Linda Sarbo for all of her hard work with the self-study and with the PARC. The final PARC report has been sent to Cecile, and we have 20 days to meet with her if we want to object to any of the PARC's recommendations (but we have no plan to do so). Linda will email the report to Rebekha, who will email it to the committee.
 - b. The committee was asked if the remaining meetings of the semester could be used to look at sample test items for the new GPE. Susan will choose a topic that resonated well with the students and add additional text (one page of reading plus a glossary). The goal would be to have the GPE approved as an alternate assessment by the Fall. The GWAR committee needs to look at the GPE because we don't have GPE committee yet. Susan will try to bring a sample topic on April 6th.
4. **Report on CEPC meeting of 3/14/12:**
 - a. A time certain was given to introduce the policy and to explain its background (e.g., AWATF recommendations, seamless GWAR advising). Questions were then entertained from the floor. The committee wanted to know what the GPE looked like and questions about the seeming disconnect between the portfolio class and the portfolio assessment. Tom Enders asked that since students must receive a C or better in the writing intensive capstones, why don't we say that students must receive a C or better in the portfolio course (i.e., the grade in the course could be the sole determinant).
 - b. Three options concerning this issue were raised and discussed:
 - i. Keep the policy as is (students must pass the portfolio, but the grade in the portfolio class is not addressed by the policy)

- ii. State that students must receive a C or better in the portfolio class *and* pass the portfolio (students could appeal a failing portfolio)
- iii. State that students must receive a C or better in the portfolio class (with the understanding that the portfolio would make up a portion of the students' grade) (students could appeal a failing portfolio)
- c. The committee would like to keep the policy as is, but it was also noted that the CEPC committee may not accept this, and we may need to adopt (ii) or (iii) above. It was noted that keeping the portfolio assessment separate from the assessment of the class has some benefits, including holding instructors responsible for giving good feedback (they know failing portfolios will be assessed by others).
- d. Before the next GVAR meeting (April 6th), Rebekha, Linda, Nathan, and Susan will meet to come up with a list of reasons to support our decision to keep the portfolio assessment separate from the class. Rebekha will also email the committee as a whole to get their feedback on the issue.

5. GVAR Coordinator's report:

- a. There was a GVAR instructors' workshop on Friday, with good attendance.
- b. The Testing office will be sending out the WPE scores shortly, as well as holds.

Submitted by,

Colleen Dunagan

(These minutes were approved on 4/6/12)