

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

**Meeting Number 4
October 19th, 2012**

Members in attendance: Rebekha Abbuhl, Linda Sarbo, Leslie Andersen, Rick Tuveson, Yu Ding, Nathen Jensen, Simon Kim, Maryam Qudrat

1. Approval of agenda (MSP).

2. Minutes of meeting on October 5th, 2012 (MSP as amended). Amendments: attendance list, 3 d the speaker was Andrea Lunsford, and 6 b the second registration is December 5-12.

3. Announcements

- a. The GWAR policy was approved by the Academic Senate on October 18th, 2012.

4. Academic Senate's discussion of the GWAR policy

- a. The policy was passed with only three amendments:
 - i. Section 2.4: "in consultation with their graduate advisor" added.
 - ii. Section 3.2.1: "Unless a graduate student self-places or is exempt from the GPE as specific in 2.4" added.
 - iii. Section 5.2: language added to "approve GWAR portfolio courses" such that the GWAR committee will periodically review portfolios from the GWAR portfolio classes.
- b. The committee was thanked for all of its hard work on the GWAR policy. Lynn Mahoney has also thanked the committee for its hard work.
- c. Rebekha will obtain a copy of the final GWAR policy and will send it to the committee.

5. GPE prompts

- a. The next step is to develop prompts for the GPE. Following previous suggestions that we explore the "make an argument/critique an argument" format used in the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), the committee looked at some sample prompts taking this approach.
- b. It was noted that the "critique an argument" format may favor students from philosophy or who have received instruction on evaluating an argument for logical fallacies. It was noted that our campus does not have a separate rhetoric and composition program, and that few students receive instruction on this skill. A question was raised as to whether the "critique

an argument” approach is testing something what we teach students, and whether this approach is in line with the writing outcomes specified by the Academic Writing Assessment Task Force (AWATF). The committee decided that this type of prompt would be problematic.

- c. The committee looked at some example prompts taking the “make an argument” approach. It was noted that these are no different from the current WPE prompts and would elicit the same kind of uncritical, narrative writing. The committee decided that this type of prompt would be problematic.
- d. The committee would like to see prompts that require students to incorporate information from texts (and accompanying visuals) into their responses. The committee is aware that the creation and scoring of these prompts could take more time, and wondered how long readers at Sac State typically take to score an essay. It was noted that Susan will be observing a reading a Sac State and that she may be able to provide more information on this. The committee reviewed a previous example employing texts (on video games) and suggested that the texts be shortened to fit onto one page (but that the graphics be kept).
- e. Each committee member was asked to develop a sample prompt for the next meeting on November 2nd. Committee members were asked to email their sample prompts to Rebekha before the 2nd so that she can email them en masse to the committee.

6. GVAR Coordinator’s report

- a. The second faculty development workshop for CHHS will be held on October 26th. The first was well attended. The second workshop will involve having faculty develop learning outcomes for an assignment and use those outcomes to develop a rubric.
- b. Linda is meeting with the accreditation team for the College of Engineering, and will provide them with information on the GVAR, the GVAR portfolio course in that college, and WPE passing rates for students within that college.
- c. Lynn Mahoney met with Linda and Cyrus Parker-Jeannette from COTA and Dhushy Sathianathan from the College of Engineering (both have high-unit degree programs). It was suggested to them that their GVAR portfolio courses be made into advanced skill capstone courses as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebekha Abbuhl

(These minutes were approved on 11/2/12.)