

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

**Meeting Number 7  
February 1, 2013**

**In attendance:** Rebekha Abbuhl, Rick Tuveson, Linda Sarbo, Susan Platt, Colleen Dunagan, Melissa Lyons, Mark Wiley, Yu Ding

**1) Approval of agenda (MSP).**

**2) Minutes of meeting on November 16, 2012 (MSP).**

**3) Announcements.**

- a) Bron Pellissier was thanked for her service to the committee. The committee will need to appoint a representative from advising to the committee. Kim Machan will be contacted about serving on the committee.
- b) Nathan Jensen was thanked for his service, and the committee welcomes Melissa Lyons (from the Center for International Education).
- c) Over 3,000 students were tested in November (WPE) and six new topics were piloted. The testing office acquired the high tech center and will turn it into a testing-on-demand site (various tests). The testing office is thinking about generating revenue by proctoring exams for students from other universities. In exchange for this space, Susan agreed to assist with DSS overflow testing during exam times. This site can also be used for test question piloting. The room is in LA5 on the first floor.
- d) The second December WPE reading went smoothly and had plenty of readers.

**4) Implementing the GWAR policy**

- a) The policy passed but there are some issues on the horizon that will need to be dealt with in order to implement the policy. The main issue raised is the timeline for implementing the policy. The non-CSU waiver for graduate students coming from an English-speaking or U.S. institutions can happen right away; however, students still need to file a petition to get the waiver into the system. The big issue is how the online system can be modified to support the GWAR structure. Tom thinks that the programming will not be complete before 2015.
- b) Right now students are notified at 50 units that they need to take the test by the time they hit 65 units. Susan would like to have a warning at 30 units and the test by 50 units.
- c) Another issue is the number and identification of upper division writing intensive capstones. Lynn has stated that we need 5,000 seats a year, which would be 150

courses approximately. The computer system will also have to be programmed to recognize the WI courses.

- d) There is a little bit of confusion about what the passing grade is in writing intensive courses because GEGC requires a D or better to earn GE credit, while GWAR policy requires a C or better.
- e) The only thing that about the new GWAR policy that can be announced now might be the graduate waiver; however, we cannot post the new policy yet since all of it hasn't gone into effect. We could change the information on the Testing website so that the unit trigger reflects 50 instead of 65, just to start changing the general mindset.
- f) We recommend that committee members talk to Associate Deans to help spread the word about the need for writing intensive capstones.
- g) The WPE Development committee is the most appropriate committee for developing the writing prompts and new GPE test. Susan has a couple prompts to share with Development Committee so that they can refine them for the pilot. The Development Committee will begin working on them now.

#### **5) Naming the GPE/WPE**

- a) There are some concerns about renaming the WPE to GPE. There is an argument that the GPE is a completely different test than the WPE (they are not measuring the same things) and so we can't rename the test until the policy is fully implemented. Alternatively, Susan has suggested that the test name be changed before the test format changes. If that is confusing to advisors, we state in all written documents "GPE (formerly the WPE)." We could use the same name for both formats while we are still using the current format.
- b) The GWAR committee would like to inform the implementation team that we would like to move towards implementation of new test format, including changing the name on public/published documents: MSP.

#### **6) GWAR Coordinator's report**

- a) GWAR course enrollments: There are 36 students in English 301A (3 sections - 5, 15, 16); the portfolio courses have a total of 387 students. There is a large number of students due to the fact there is 13 sections of 301B, 2 sections of COTA 300, 2 sections of Engineering 310 and 1 section of IS301L.
- b) There is still a trend of students avoiding Engineering or IS or COTA and taking English 301B instead. Students are avoiding the engineering portfolio course because they have to take it for a grade. COTA students are avoiding the COTA portfolio course because they heard it was hard. Students are not enrolling in the IS portfolio course because there is only one section.
- c) The GWAR committee needs to do a comparison of standards across courses. We could look at last semester's portfolios and/or sample assignments.
- d) Petition for Special Circumstances Waiver was passed (MSP).

Submitted by Colleen Dunagan  
(These minutes were approved on 3/1/13.)