

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

**Meeting Number 9
March 15, 2013**

Members in Attendance: Rebekha Abbuhl, Rick Tuveson, Susan Platt, Colleen Dunagan, Lori Brown, Melissa Lyon, and Mark Wiley

1. Approval of agenda
 - a. MSP
2. Minutes of meeting on March 1, 2013
 - a. MSP
3. Announcements
 - a. Rebekha contacted Kim Machan about being on the committee but wasn't able to speak with her; however, Linda talked to her. Kim will be getting back to us once she checks her schedule.
 - b. One student whose waiver we approved this semester has had her courses recertified and will be receiving her degree.
4. Schedule of meetings
 - a. We don't have a lot of items on our agenda right now, so we have the option of moving to once a month. The first Friday of April is spring break anyway, so we will do one meeting in April and one in May.
5. Implementing the GWAR policy: report on meeting
 - a. Linda, Susan, Rebekha, Tom Enders, and Lynn Mahoney were present.
 - b. Tom has pointed out some awkward sections of the policy.
 - i. We did not put into the policy that students who have completed the GWAR at another CSU have fulfilled the GWAR when they come here to complete their degree; however, the Executive Order states that if they have met the GWAR on the campus where they matriculated that they have then met the GWAR.
 - ii. Susan noted that there is not an easy system for finding out that they have met the GWAR other than them getting a letter from the campus they met the GWAR at.
 - iii. The policy indicates that both undergraduates and graduates can use alternate assessments to meet aspects of the policy but the difference between how the two populations may use the alternate

assessments is not clear in the policy. The policy has been written with to say that undergraduates can use the alternate assessments for placement, while the graduate students can use alternate assessments to meet the GVAR.

- iv. There was a discussion about the writing intensive courses and what students have to achieve before moving into those courses. They wanted to know what constitutes completing a GVAR portfolio course, since the policy specifies completing the GVAR course, including submitting and receiving a passing score on the portfolio. For Tom this would mean earning a C or better.
- v. Transition period – everything will not be in place until 2015, so we are leaving everything we currently have in place in place until we are ready to transition. Lynn Mahoney is approaching Cecile Lindsay and Dan O'Connor about passing an exception to policy to account for the discrepancies created by the transition period.
- vi. Some mechanism for insuring the timely completion of the pathway needs to be developed.
 - 1. A question was raised about accommodating timely completion of pathways by DSS students. Susan says the Testing Office works with them on this issue already.

6. GVAR Coordinator's report

- a. The Memorandum of Understanding has been reviewed by Linda; she has signed it and will get a copy of it to Rebekha.
 - i. Overall it is very positive, and there are several recommendations. Most are in line with what we are already doing.
 - ii. However, the reviewer wanted us to work on insuring consistency of standards across courses. The external reviewer observed that there were differences across GVAR courses and perhaps some inconsistency of standards across courses. We have previously discussed reviewing past portfolio courses to help insure standards, and the external reviewer is just prompting us to start this process. She recalls the reviewer looking at the portfolios from COTA 300 and ENG 301B, and we know that there are differences in the kinds of essays being written; however, we are not sure if she was finding a differences in paper topics or types of writing or literally strong discrepancies in standards of writing.

7. Adjournment

- a. Our next meeting will be April 19, and we will focus on discussing how to implement the process of insuring consistency in standards.
- b. Our last meeting will be May 3.
- c. Adjourned at 2:18 pm.

Minutes submitted by,

Colleen Dunagan

Secretary

(These minutes were approved on 4/18/13.)