

MINUTES
GWAR Committee
BH 201
1:30-3:00

Meeting Number 12
May 4th, 2018

In attendance: Henry O'Lawrence, Lei Sun, Rebekha Abbuhl, Leeanne Bergeron, Max Rosenkrantz, John Scenters-Zapico, Lori Brown, Joseph Aubele, Jason Deutschman, Lori Smurthwaite, Lethia Cobbs

1. **Approval of agenda:** M/S/P
2. **Minutes of meeting on April 20, 2018:** Approved M/S/P
3. **Announcements:**
 - a. Mark Wiley is retiring; his retirement celebration is May 17th, 2-4 PM at the Anatol Center. The committee was encouraged to attend, as Mark was a central member of the committee and has been a tremendous help to us over the years.
4. **GWAR mission statement:**
 - a. Following a recommendation from Lori Brown and Henry O'Lawrence that the GWAR committee draft a mission statement, the committee brainstormed various ideas to incorporate into that statement. The committee was asked to consider what skills we want the students to develop, how best to develop those skills, and in general, what we value and what we want the new policy to achieve.
 - b. The committee identified the following ideas as being central:
 - i. Critical thinking
 - ii. Importance of reading along with writing
 - iii. Being an advocate
 - iv. Effective communication
 - v. Importance of writing a lot/practice
 - vi. Writing process
 - vii. Student accountability
 - viii. English language learner needs
 - ix. Skills of argumentation, persuasion, synthesis
 - x. Growth
 - xi. Linking writing to real-world experiences
 - xii. Global vision
 - xiii. Comparative world view
 - c. Additional ideas included the following:
 - i. Showing skill achievement vs. demonstrating students have been trained
 - ii. Using a collection of items over time (e.g., eportfolio)
 - iii. Role of genre
 - iv. Faculty-driven

- v. Choices
- vi. Research skills
- vii. Disciplinary connections
- viii. Inviting industry to speak to the committee directly about their needs for communication/writing
- ix. Innovative instruction
- x. Instructor community
- xi. Preparing students for future workforce
- xii. Motivation
- xiii. Amount of writing
- xiv. Voices of people for traditional liberal arts disciplines on the committee
- d. Rebekha will send information on what was brainstormed to the committee and create a discussion board thread so that the committee can begin trying to incorporate these ideas into a mission statement.

5. Possible future directions for GWAR:

- a. As noted last time, the academic senate will take the next year to process the feedback from the GE forums and to deliberate about changes to the GE and to the GWAR. We have time to refine our suggestions and of course we will need to gather information from the GEGC and CEPC concerning their plans for GE, so we can align our recommendations to those proposed changes.
- b. The committee was asked to consider some possibilities for satisfying GWAR in the future, including:
 - i. Use of e-portfolio: New ePortfolio software from D2L will be available to all students fall 2018. One suggestion for a GWAR alternative would be to use the new technology in existing courses that already require a portfolio as part of the curriculum. The ePortfolio would be evaluated by the instructor with guidelines/parameters established by the GWARC. Such parameters may include a minimum number of words in order to satisfy the GWAR. No change in the course curriculum would be required
 - ii. Placing onus on students: Another idea would be to require students to submit a portfolio or ePortfolio of their work. This work could be from a single class or a combination of classes. It could also be from internships or other educational experiences. The department would evaluate the portfolio. No curriculum changes would be required.
 - iii. Allowing departmental choice: Another idea would be to offer departments a variety of options to satisfy the GWAR, such as the GPE and GWAR pathway, the WAC Alternative, ePortfolio, etc. In addition, we could also encourage departments to be creative and to send us additional proposals for meeting the GWAR,
- b. The Committee was encouraged to think creatively over the break to develop other ideas.

6. GWAR waiver petition:

- a. A GWAR Waiver Petition was reviewed and passed: M/S/P

7. GVAR Coordinator's report:

- a. The WAC Writing Survey indicates strong support for WAC Alternative from those who responded to the survey.
- b. 55% of the alumni surveyed indicated that they were interested in participating in a forum to talk about their experiences.
- c. Alumni also indicated that they were interested in coming back to campus to support a writing initiative.

8. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Leeanne Bergeron, Secretary
(These minutes have not been approved.)