

**Minutes
GWAR Committee
PSY 148
1:30-3:00**

**Meeting Number 1
September 1, 2017**

Members in Attendance: Rebekha Abbuhl, Max Rosenkrantz, Leeanne Bergeron, Rebecca Lemme, Deborah Fraser, Leeanne Bergeron, Lori Smurthwaite, Ken Kelly, Carol Comfort, Jason Deutschman.

New members: Joseph Aubele, Library and Lei Sun, Speech-Language Pathology
Tele-voting from Brotman Hall -John Scenters Zapico, Jonathan O'Brien, Lethia Cobbs, Lori Brown

1. **Approval of agenda** M/S/P
2. **Approval Minutes of meeting on May 5, 2017** M/S/P
3. **Announcements:** Meeting being convened by non-voting guest to committee (Rebekha Abbuhl)
4. **Elections:**
 - a. Chair - Rebekha Abbuhl (pending AS approval to the GWAR committee)
 - b. Vice-chair – Lori Brown
 - c. Secretary – Leeanne Bergeron
5. **Need for student ASI representative** – RA will start the search.
6. **Executive order 1100 and its impact on the GWAR:**
 - a. Information on EO 1100:
 1. Students can only take 9 upper division GE capstone units; students must take 3 units in each Area: B, C, D. Students cannot exceed 9 units.
 2. GWAR portfolio courses - cannot be part of these 9 units because they are not upper division GE capstone courses.
 3. In order for us to continue requiring students to take a GE writing intensive capstone course, it will have to be an Area B, C, or D course. Currently not all of the WI courses fall into one of these three categories (of the 76 WI courses, only 31 are C or D courses). There are not enough courses to accommodate all the students we need to.
 4. Another problem is if students are required to take one upper division GE WI, but there are no such courses that satisfy Area B, C, D in their major, students would have to take a course outside their major.
 5. RA has asked for clarification from Mark Wiley and Alison Wrynn and will report at the next meeting.

- b. Potential problems/possible solutions in EO 100 compliance: The committee is asked to review EE 1100 again prior to the next meeting on 9/15 and continue to brainstorm potential problems and possible solutions. Possibilities include:
 1. Getting rid of the WI requirement altogether and going back to the old method under the WPE. However, this gets rid of the primary benefit of the current GVAR policy, which is requiring a course that addresses writing in the disciplines.
 2. Stipulating that all capstone courses must have at least one student learning outcome that addresses writing. This is not the same as writing intensive. This is what CSU Channel Islands is doing.
 3. Getting rid of the GVAR (test, portfolio courses, and the requirement that students take a GE WI course) and pursuing the WAC instead, with a greater emphasis on writing support services.
 4. Getting rid of the GVAR, but stipulating that each department will need to specify how they will address writing in their majors.
 5. Creating WAC alternative courses that would be in categories B, C and D, so students could choose a WAC alternative course or a GE WI course.
- c. To help the committee brainstorm, the committee was reminded of the writing outcomes created by the Academic Writing Assessment Task Force.
- d. The committee was reminded that any solution we develop has to be one that we can get in place by Fall 2018, and that we need to be mindful of all the parties that would be impacted (e.g., testing office, GVAR instructors, students and time to graduation, struggling student writers, etc.).
- e. A suggestion was made to plan for different contingencies (e.g., if the chancellor's office decides to get rid of the GVAR requirement altogether).

7. **Creating a UNIV GVAR course**

- a. We have a backlog of students trying to get into ENGL 301B. Approximately 487 students who needed GVAR portfolio courses could not be accommodated. Of those 487 are 138 who will not be able to graduate because they cannot get into a GVAR portfolio course. These data were shared with the colleges and departments offering portfolio courses during the spring semester and throughout the summer.
- b. Some course sections were added at the beginning of the semester and during the first two weeks. The problem is that students already have their schedules set, and it is difficult to fit in a class. How do we notify students when late sections are added?
- c. In order to reduce this backlog, a suggestion was made to create a UNIV GVAR course for Spring 2018, using existing syllabi from other GVAR portfolio courses (e.g., ENGL 301B, IS 301L). The instructors of those courses would be current GVAR portfolio instructors. Funding could be requested from Academic Affairs. A concern was raised that such a course would be subject to the same administrative constraints/concerns regarding enrollment.
- d. Alternatively, we could get more sections of existing GVAR portfolio courses in the colleges with the highest number of students needing portfolio courses (for

- example, COE, CBA, COTA, CHHS all have over 100 students who need GVAR courses). This is the ideal solution, as departments would get credit for ETFs.
- e. A suggestion was made to create a communication to send to the administration (e.g., associate deans and chairs of departments with GVAR portfolio courses) stressing the importance of adding more sections of these courses.
8. **Need for copies of original GVAR SCOs.** JA will contact special collections at the library to search for these documents.
- a. According to CSU policy, all course syllabi are required to be on file at the library and publically accessible.
 - b. GVARC needs to resolve how and where to store these documents digitally.
9. **Number of students signed up for September 16th GPE.** Approximately 1300 students registered. Discuss ways to campaign students who need GPE this semester and target Nov. 18th GPE registration. LB offered to work with KK to find a way to use EAB campaigns.
10. **Data on past GPEs.**
- a. Data on past GPEs were presented to the committee. At the last testing session on 6/24/17, there was considerable variation between the two prompts with respect to the pass rates for nonnative speakers (80.4% vs. 66.7%). This is a problem that needs to be addressed.
11. **Activating the two WAC alternative pilots.** This agenda item was postponed.
12. **University outreach concerning GVAR.** This agenda item was postponed.
13. **Student waiver petition.** A waiver was presented to the committee.
14. **GVAR Coordinator's report.** This agenda item was postponed.
15. **Adjournment** – next meeting Sept. 15 PSY 148 (unless otherwise notified). We need to look for better meeting space. MHB 315 is one possible location. Need to check availability. Committee members are asked to help look for space, preferably one with A/C.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeanne Bergeron

(These minutes were approved on 9/15/2017.)