COMMITTEE: Writing Across the Curriculum Committee

MEETING DATE: November 14, 2011, 3:30 p.m.

PERSON PRESIDING: Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty, Chair

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Elizabeth Swaggerty, Carolyn Dunn, Will Banks, Joanne Hartsell, Hector Garza, Andrea Robertson, Michelle Eble, Rebecca Benfield

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Wendy Sharer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kerri Flinchbaugh, Philip Adams

ACTIONS OF MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes, September Meeting

Discussion: Michelle Eble made a motion to approve the minutes, Wendy Sharer seconded the motion.

Action Taken: The motion to approve the September meeting minutes carried; the minutes were approved.

Agenda Item: Review of WAC procedures for adding/removing WAC designation

Discussion: The chair and several others reviewed the process of how WI course proposals are reviewed by WAC for the benefit of new committee members. There was some discussion of whether we should request that the WAC Committee be notified by the UCC when a WI course is deleted; that knowledge would be helpful since the committee tracks WI courses. There was also discussion of the fact that right now, the WI designation focuses on writing and not how writing impacts learning outcomes. Dr. Sharer suggested that the WAC Committee may want to consider examining how writing impacts learning outcomes.

Action Taken: Dr. Swaggerty noted that she would contact UCC and ask that they let WAC know when a WI course is deleted.

Agenda Item: Review of John Shearin's (Director of School of Theater and Dance) proposal regarding the WI designation for THEA 4040/4041

Discussion: John Shearin asked the WAC to make the WI designation optional in THEA 4040/4041 beginning Fall, 2012. Shearin also asked that effective Fall, 2013, the WI designation for 4040/4041 be removed entirely. The theater department is reworking its WI courses, and will continue to use WI in THEA 4040/4041 to serve currently enrolled students that need it to fulfill WI requirements. However, effective Fall 2013, that will no longer be necessary, and the WI designation can be removed entirely. The committee agreed that this phase-out plan appears to be effective for both the students and the faculty members and the program will still offer enough writing intensive courses for students.
Action Taken: Will Banks made a motion to accept Shearin's proposal. Hector Garza seconded the motion. The motion passed. John Shearin's request to make the WI designation optional for THEA 4040/4041 courses in the Fall 2012 and deleted from the courses in the Fall of 2013 was approved.

Agenda Item: Report from the University Writing Program

Discussion: Representatives from the University Writing Program updated the committee on the work of UWP. The University Writing Program has reviewed writing intensive syllabi and is currently examining how much writing counts in terms of grades in writing intensive classes. Preparation for the WAC academy is underway. Several workshops are on the calendar that focus on teaching writing. The online writing lab and tutoring center have both been very busy. The UWP will have a space in Laupus Library on the medical campus in January, 2012. Wendy Sharer briefly updated the committee on the QEP and how it is progressing.

Action Taken: NA

Agenda Item: Definition of WI

Discussion: Will Banks led a discussion about defining what the term "writing intensive" means, and suggested that the committee think about that as a group. Banks suggested one can define WI by content or outcome, for example. There was general discussion of this topic.

NEXT MEETING: December 12, 2011, 3:30pm

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

Hector Garza made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Will Banks seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Carolyn K. Dunn