COMMITTEE: WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

MEETING DATE: January 9, 2012

PERSON PRESIDING: Dr. Elizabeth Swaggerty, Chair

REGULAR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Carolyn Dunn, JoAnne Hartsell, Ashley Egan, Hector Garza, Elizabeth Swaggerty, Dario Bernardini

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Will Banks, Rebecca Benfield, Wendy Sharer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Adams, Kerri Flinchbaugh

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ACTIONS OF MEETING

Agenda Item: Approval of minutes from November 14, 2011 Meeting.

Discussion: A motion was made to approve the November 14, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded.

Action Taken: Minutes from November 14, 2011 meeting approved unanimously

Assigned additional duties to: N/A

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Agenda Item: Dr. Wade Dudley, from the Department of History, presents his request for WI approval for the course HIST 2000, Introduction to History.

Discussion: Dr. Dudley explained that HIST 2000 would be a sophomore level course that includes historical research and writing. The course centers on WI model #2: Courses Emphasizing Professional Writing. The outcome from this course would be compared to the outcome from a senior level course for assessment purposes within the department of History. Outcomes of this course would include quality of research, analytical skills of issues such as chronology and gender, synthesis of information and awareness of plagiarism. The WAC Committee discussed Dr. Dudley's proposal and suggested broadening the language to emphasize writing, not just grammar and a further articulated set of learning outcomes in the proposal.

Action Taken: Dr. Banks moved that the proposal be approved pending the minor changes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Assigned additional duties to: Dr. Swaggerty will facilitate the approval of the revised proposal by communicating the committee’s suggestions to Dr. Dudley, reviewing the revised proposal, and issuing WAC approval via a memo to Donna Kain of the UCC and signing the UCC proposal signature form.
NEW BUSINESS:

Dr. Swaggerty reminded the committee of the discussion with Dr. Kain, University Curriculum Committee Chair, about the process of informing the UCC and Faculty Senate of WAC curricular actions. When courses are submitted as WI to the University Curriculum Committee, the UCC receives copies of communication from WAC Committee and he or she signs the UCC Signature sheet. This information is included in the UCC minutes, which go on to the Faculty Senate. However, if a course is WI at the time of deletion, the unit requesting the deletion should notify the WAC Committee. The UCC will remind units deleting WI courses to notify the WAC Committee. If an existing course receives WI designation, the actions are handled by the WAC and then approved by the Faculty Senate. For existing courses deleting WI designation, the unit requesting the deletion should follow procedures to get approval from the WAC Committee, which will then be reported to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Banks updated the committee on the work of the University Writing Program. More than 100 syllabi of WI courses were collected. Analysis of those syllabi indicate roughly 25 percent did not include the required WI statement. The most common WI models in use are 1, 2 and 4. The third model, writing to learn, is not heavily used, and model 5 is not used at all. Of the syllabi analyzed, roughly 70 percent use writing as the basis for the majority of the grade in the class. Dr. Banks noted that the WAC Academy was due to begin in 1 week. The University Writing Center will open for the semester in 1 week. Several WAC workshops are scheduled for faculty. The University Writing Program is searching for a permanent director. Candidates are tentatively scheduled to come to campus in February.

Dr. Sharer updated the committee on the status of the QEP. The QEP council is scheduled to meet next week. Last semester, 7-8 outcomes for students were identified. This semester, the council will explore possible initiatives to help meet these outcomes.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2012