

Minutes: Committee on Writing in the Disciplines/Writing Across the Curriculum

Queensborough Community College / CUNY

The Academic Senate Committee on WID/WAC met on 11/16/22 at 12:30 pm in person with some members attending via Zoom

Committee Members in Attendance:

1. Christi Saindon, Chair, Communication, Theatre, & Media Production (2023)
2. Adam Luedtke, Secretary, Social Sciences (2025)
3. Svjetlana Bukvich-Nichols, Music (2025)
4. Michael DeMarco, Social Sciences (2024)
5. James Nichols, History (2024)
6. David Pham, Mathematics & Computer Science (2025)
7. Angela Ridinger-Dotterman, English (2024)
8. Stefan Spezio, Center for Tutoring and Academic Support (2023)

Liaisons in Attendance:

1. Arthur Corradetti, Dean for Institutional Effectiveness (Liaison to OAA)
2. Melissa Denihey, English (HIP Co-Coordinator)
3. Monica Rossi-Miller, Foreign Languages & Literature (HIP Co-Coordinator)

Business:

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm

1. Approval of minutes from September 9, 2022, with 2 changes to correct attendance.
 - a. Approved by unanimous consent
2. Approval of meeting agenda.
 - a. Approved by unanimous consent
3. Continuing Business
 - a. WI Co-Coordinator Update, Melissa & Monica
 - i. Everything is going well, although adjuncts are dropping out, we've only had one complete it, they usually mention the labor, compensation isn't worth it, many are being sent by their chairs, rather than opting in. Not to say they don't do well, but they just don't finish. Sometimes they drop out just a few weeks in, others near the end. Full-timers, on the other hand, are doing great in all respects, they are invested in the pedagogy, etc. The only other proposal is there is a faculty member in the English department who is not WI-certified, and Melissa has spoken to her and recommends we have her submit a portfolio and she gets her approval that way rather than go through the regular certification process. She has all the right expertise, beyond just curriculum (e.g. she edits a writing pedagogy journal). She's a new hire, just finished her PhD in this area.

Angela agreed with Melissa and also didn't have to go through the regular certification process because she was a CUNY writing fellow and thinks that certainly the same leeway should be extended, as it was for others on the committee. James disagreed to some extent and worried that it might open a door to others getting an exception, but those requests for exceptions already come up, they usually come up last-minute, and are usually denied for good reasons, and this probably wouldn't have any effect on that. Christi asked about the stipend, and if not getting that would have any effect on this faculty member's decision, and Melissa was of the opinion that it wouldn't matter. We voted and it was approved.

- ii. Monica raised the question of certification of foreign language faculty and/or courses. Monica is from the foreign languages department and is certified and recertified for WI. Before this year, it never came up to have WI in a course that was in a language other than English. The administration has given permission to give WI certification to certain "heritage" advanced classes in Spanish that would cover literature, history, etc. for already-fluent speakers. There has been a request to turn some 200-level courses into WI, and this is the issue, this is the problem. Melissa added that the department has no agreement on this, so people in the department have turned to Melissa et al for guidance. Melissa said that the problem isn't that it's 100 or 200-level per se, it's more that it's not an appropriate type of curriculum if you're taking a basic language class. Artie says they're reaching out because it's a problem philosophically because the goals of a basic language class may clash with the goals of a writing-intensive class. So they have to make a decision about what level course can qualify as WI, and it has to be a department decision because they're the experts in both the language and in language learning. Christi added that she took extensive Spanish but didn't do the higher-order thinking required for a WI course. Artie stated if they need further guidance they should go to OAA because it should be the department's decision ultimately (not our committee).

- b. Faculty recertifications: More than 50 requests sent, 8 responded. approved 4, 1 needs some revisions, 3 are still on hold. That's a terrible response rate. Artie thinks we should send out a reminder, because that's really the main problem we should be looking at, as opposed to one single over-qualified faculty member skipping certification, because we have dozens of people who aren't even responding to requests for recertification. It was decided to ask Dr. Palmer to send out a reminder email and maybe get the chairs involved, which they haven't been as of now. The department should bring more accountability to bear. Christi suspects that we'll have to make a full and final decision about this in a few years. Artie says at some point we'll need to take stock and make a decision about where we go from here, because it's a promise that needs to be fulfilled. Melissa agrees with what's been said on this so far, and added that it's not an academic freedom issue, it's a best practices issue. We're in a tricky situation, though, because it's hard to assess the cost/benefits of the various options for

the best path forward. For now, Christi will ask OAA to re-send the reminders and maybe get the departments/chairs involved if possible.

- c. Student Waiver Requests (NONE!)
 - d. Committee Guide Preparation (Christi still would really love help with that. If anyone is interested in being chair, for instance, it would be a great opportunity).
- 4. New business
 - a. Continued meeting options, Spring 2023, it sounds like we're going to fully in-person meetings, so be prepared for that.
 - 5. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Luedtke, Secretary, Committee on WID/WAC