

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

Queensborough Community College / CUNY

The Academic Senate Committee on WID/WAC met on 9/20/23 at 1:15 pm in person with an option for attending remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Committee Members in Attendance:

1. Michael DeMarco, Chair, Social Sciences (2024)
2. Adam Luedtke, Secretary, Social Sciences (2025)
3. Shenaz Ida, Nursing (2026)
4. Susan Lago, English (2026)
5. Nicole McClam, Health, Phys Ed, & Dance (2026)
6. David Pham, Mathematics & Computer Science (2025)
7. Angela Ridinger-Dotterman, English (2024)
8. Madeline Ruggiero, Library (2024)

Absent:

1. Svjetlana Bukvich-Nichols, Music (2025)
2. Kezia Prince, Student Representative
3. James Nichols, History, ON LEAVE (2024)

Liaisons in Attendance:

1. Arthur Corradetti, Dean for Institutional Effectiveness (President's Designee/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 1:15 pm

1. Approval of minutes from May 12, 2023 Meeting.
 - a. Before approval, Adam wants to go through and pare down the (very verbose) document. Therefore, at the next meeting, we will vote on both today's minutes and the May 12th minutes.
2. Approval of meeting agenda.
 - a. Approved by unanimous consent
3. Continuing Business
 - a. WI Co-Coordinators Update, Melissa & Monica
 - i. Work continues apace, with the usual assortment of challenges. One issue that comes up is WI requirements are higher than the other HIPs, even though the stipend is the same. And ours is more work. The big problem, as we know, is that new faculty come in and aren't ready to teach WI and are thrown in. There is no one-size-fits-all solution we can bring to this, which is a problem because we're under imperatives from enrollment pressures, e.g. chairs don't know their teaching needs until the last minute sometimes. And it's really, for better or worse, the chair's prerogative in the end, to comply or not.
 - b. Faculty recertifications:
 - i. Michael: Recertification will be the biggest challenge for this committee, starting early on this year. We'll meet again in November to get a good start on tackling this.

- ii. Sandra Palmer sent an email to chairs about faculty who weren't recertified or hadn't responded, and encouraged chairs not to assign WI to them, but ultimately it's a departmental prerogative. Specifically, Dr. Palmer sent out to the chairs 34 names of people who failed to comply with recertification requests.
- iii. Dr. Curtis-Tweed, the new Provost, will certainly be happy to continue with continuing to reach out to chairs. The goal is to get to more compliance. But ultimately it's in the hands of chairs. However, this is a good moment for our new Provost to reassert the priority. When they reached out to chairs they did also reiterate how simple recertification is.
- iv. Courses getting assigned to people who aren't certified: this should be a last resort, and only if they're also in training, but it can be difficult for chairs, and it is in their hands.
- v. We finally have a list of faculty who are certified but have not been recertified. Approx 360 on that list. After retirements, etc, the overall number went down. Over the years we requested 160 recertifications. The response rate was lower than it should have been.
- vi. Artie thinks we should write to all of them – do a little catch-up. This was supposed to be a 3 year process. Jump start it a little, do a massive outreach, in coordination with the new Provost. Last year we requested 50 recertifications and had 13 approved. If we can hit a number approaching 50% or more, it'll make a meaningful dent.
- vii. Melissa noted that some faculty have said they're scared of getting in trouble, i.e. "it's been a while", they don't want to do recertification because they're worried it won't be up to par. We need to reassure them and help them comply. I.E., tell them that they won't be penalized, etc. Michael suggested an informal workshop for those folks, where they could meet as a group and get reassured/re-trained in a quick manner.
- viii. Still an open question: how long does (re)certification last, or rather how long should it last, since there's no hard rule right now?
- c. Student Waiver Requests
 - i. Forms that are provided are in the Microsoft Teams vault. The student waiver request has been revised, but it's pretty straightforward. We'll all read it and take a vote.
- d. Committee Guide
 - i. It has also been updated and can also be found in Microsoft Teams.
- 4. New Business:
 - a. Michael: AI needs to be addressed. This potentially forces us to change the way we assign writing, the way we teach writing, potentially even the nature of the writing we assign. David: brought up apps that detect AI-written essays. The whole range of such potential pedagogical responses to AI was discussed. Michael will serve on the QCC committee working on this.

5. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Luedtke, Secretary, Committee on WID/WAC