

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

Queensborough Community College / CUNY

The Academic Senate Committee on WID/WAC met on November 6th, 2024 via Zoom

Committee Members in Attendance:

1. James Nichols
2. Adam Luedtke, Secretary, Social Sciences (2025)
3. Alison Mello, Biological Sciences & Geology (2027)
4. Shenaz Ida, Nursing (2026)
5. Nicole McClam, Health, Phys Ed, & Dance (2026)
6. Svjetlana Bukvich-Nichols, Music (2025)

Absent:

1. Neera Mohess, Library (2027)
2. Susan Lago, English (2026)
3. David Pham, Mathematics & Computer Science (2025) – On Sabbatical

Liaisons in Attendance:

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

1. Approval of meeting agenda
 - A. Approved by unanimous consent.
2. Approval of minutes from May 15 and September 18, 2024.
 - A. Approved by unanimous consent.
3. Continuing Business
 - A. WI Co-Coordinators Update (Melissa & Monica)

It's in a state of flux. Meg T. is retiring this semester so we may not have a CETL coordinator, or even a CETL, because Meg has been running CETL entirely on her own. In addition, CUNY central has done away with the 5th year fellowships for graduate students to do WI trainings for faculty. Right now we have 3 fellows and they each do 10 hours a week minimum, some semesters we've had as many as 6. We don't know if we'll have any next year. Students used to be guaranteed this work but CUNY is moving away from academic fellowships towards internships. We'll know more in Spring as far as if there will be a CETL, if there will be HIPs, how that will impact WID-WAC and even if there will be a WID-WAC. It seems like there are some larger structural changes underfoot at CUNY and we'll know more in the Spring.

B. Faculty Recertifications:

We continue to struggle with chairs about faculty teaching WI who are not certified, and faculty who are certified are getting re-certified. Melissa met with a faculty member whose department was creating courses that would be designated WI, even though they don't meet the WI criteria. He asked what could we do, and of course we can't do anything without the cooperation of chairs. The solution we've floated would be to raise the alarm with the Academic Senate and point out that we're not meeting our own stated criteria. The new Dean wants to assess the program, but we have no way to consistently assess.

Monica seconds everything Melissa said, and said that departments are resistant to complying with the requirements, changing syllabi, etc., at least in some departments.

Artie: there is no intention not to have a CETL after Meg leaves. I don't know what the arrangements will be, but there will still be a CETL. The Dean and the Provost are still clarifying.

On the topic of recertifications, spreadsheets, we went over data. Melissa said we did offer re-certification workshops, and one faculty member signed up. Artie: I do think it should be brought to the attention of the Senate. The idea was it was to be a third of the faculty every year (3 year process). This is an institutional problem, and it's a problem that's in the purview of the faculty. This is serious. We're making a claim that we're delivering something to students, and it's an integrity issue. Melissa: from a chair's perspective, having WI designation helps enrollment, and from a faculty perspective they don't want to do the work to certify/re-certify. Pitch to Senate: requirement, credibility of QCC, prepping

We should write to Scott Litroff who is now the president, and see how he wants to handle it. Present the basic data and the problem and see what to do. Pitch to the Academic Senate.

Another problem is that the 400 only reflects certified faculty, but we also have lots of people teaching WI who are not certified.

Going to the Senate: the crux is we can't force chairs to do anything. The problem lies with the Senate – this is a Senate committee, and they need to know that we've done all we can.

Possibly trot out Middle States as an incentive. If this comes out, it would not look good. It is a severe ethics and integrity breach if we're making a claim but can't back it up. This could be brought up on the agenda with the President, so the timing could be a good incentive.

If we put this item on the agenda, and the Senate takes it into consideration, does the Senate actually have the power to change the bylaws? In a way, what's the point of taking it to the Senate if they can't do anything. This all hinges on the good will of the faculty, but if we use proper channels, this might work, or it's worth trying at least, because nothing else has worked. Worst case, we could potentially be out of compliance with Standard 2

4. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Luedtke, Secretary, Committee on WID/WAC