

TO: Sue Abbotson, Chair of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC)
FROM: Mike Michaud, Chair of Writing Board (WB)
DATE: 11/17/17
SUBJECT: Report on WB Activity (Oct/Nov)

Work of the Writing Board

The Writing Board held its annual First Pages event on 10/16/17. Faculty and students shared their writing and the event was well-attended. We'd like to thank Adams Library, First-Year Writing, and the Writing Center for their collaboration on this event.

The Writing Board is pleased to announce its topic for this year's Faculty Development Workshop (FDW), which, as always, will be held the Wednesday before the spring term begins (1/10/18). This year's workshop is titled: "Engaging *All* Learners in Writing: Pedagogies that Embrace Cultural and Linguistic Diversity." Our featured speaker, Michelle Cox of Cornell University, is an expert in helping faculty understand the experiences of multilingual writers and in working with faculty to learn strategies to support such students in their writing. We'd like to encourage all members of UCC to attend this workshop which will, once again, feature the ever-popular and much-requested taco bar. Provost Josh Hamilton will join us and offering the morning's welcome.

The Writing Board is pleased to support UCC, COGE, and the college Assessment Coordinator (Maureen Reddy) in their efforts to build greater oversight into the implementation of the college's Writing in the Disciplines(WID) requirement. In the minutes from the last UCC meeting, several items were discussed around the WID requirement and a motion was unanimously approved which includes the following:

- UCC representatives will encourage Chairs/Directors to include information related to WID and Experiential Learning on the sidebar of the department/programs' websites. (grey area on the left side of all department/program homepages).
- UCC representatives will confirm that each program has a simple statement identifying the requirements and purpose of WID and Experiential Learning in their programs
- UCC representatives will not write these descriptions

The Writing Board supports this motion as well and thanks UCC for its efforts to encourage departments to more clearly communicate their WID plans to their students and publics.

COGE, at its last meeting, also discussed WID as it relates to the Assessment Coordinator's summer report and recommendations. Among other things, COGE discussed Assessment's suggestion of a one-year position for a faculty member to implement recommendations on how to improve WID. The WB supports the proposal for this one-year position (to be clear, this wasn't so much a "position" as a faculty member granted release time to do the work). It is our hope that this position might, after one year and pending progress made, be extended. There is

ongoing work to do with regard to WID in terms of professional development, curricular design, and assessment. We feel strongly that these elements are related and that they require a specialist with knowledge of writing and pedagogy to be carried out in a thoughtful manner.

Additionally, and finally, at the last COGE meeting, the Writing Board was tasked with drafting a statement for faculty members about implementing WID, “aimed at allaying fears and clarifying requirements” (M. Reddy, Report on Summer 2017 Assessment Project). The creation of such a statement was one of the Assessment Coordinator’s recommendations to COGE. The statement has been drafted and discussed by the Board and has been submitted to COGE for review. We look forward to discussing the statement at the next COGE meeting.

Work of The Writing Board Chair

In my capacity as chair I continue the work of supporting faculty, departments, and programs in their efforts to develop successful writing pedagogies. This fall I have met in conference with individual faculty members who are participants in the annual Summer Seminar for Teaching Writing workshop and also facilitated our follow-up meetings. I have also taught a first-ever online co-operative workshop, in collaboration with the FCTL, on “the how-to of peer review.” Of course, I have also been heavily involved in planning the annual Faculty Development Workshop.

Currently, I am planning professional development opportunities for the spring 2018 semester and also laying the groundwork for a series of targeted professional development workshops for late spring, aimed at supporting small groups of faculty.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these developments.