

ASCRC WRITING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 1st, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., MLIB 322

MEMBERS PRESENT: E. Baucom, E. Brown, E. Dodson, J. Dougherty, A. Ratto-Parks, B. Sweeney, S. Yoshimura

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: S. Grogan, N. Lindsay J. Hickman, J. Pavilack, E. Wecker, Charity

The minutes from 9/10/18 were approved.

COMMUNICATION

- Professor Lila Fishman from DBS was welcomed to the Committee.
- Professor Ratto-Parks gave the Committee a brief update of the General Education's work on developing a UM Core Pilot. The goal is to simplify and reduce required credits. At this point the thinking is to consider Intermediate Writing Course as also meeting another general education group and the Advanced Writing Course as satisfying a major requirement. The Pilot is intended to be open to students starting next fall, so the timeline is condensed. It should be on the Writing Committee's radar because the writing program requires 9 credits, but is also one of the things that makes UM unique. The Committee is meeting with the Provost this week to clarify the intention of the pilot.

ASUM established an ad hoc committee to facilitate information on the UM Core. It is chaired by student member, Eli Brown and will develop a survey to collect student and alumni data.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Four Intermediate Writing Courses were submitted for review and are available on Box: <https://umt.box.com/s/py6zuw38b4hiqtrlrhth438bb6ae00tz>. Professors Dodson, Fishman, Dougherty, Sweeney and Eli Brown agreed to review the courses. Camie sent a follow-up message with their assignments (below).

LING 375	Linguistic Ecology and Language Endangerment	Eli / Jessica / Bernadette
BIOB 210	Communication of Biology	Lila / Beth
IRSH 381	Contemporary Irish Women's Writing	Jessica /Beth
IRSH 382	Rockin' Rebels: Popular Irish Music from Traditional to Punk	Eli / Lila / Bernadette

- The Writing Symposium will have the same topic as last year but a different structure. The Symposium will be on Friday, November 2 from 1-3 in UC 225. It will be "a shared discussion about designing strong writing assignments. Participants will be encouraged to

bring a writing assignment to discuss either because it works well – or because it doesn't. The symposium will help identify the hallmarks of strong writing assignments and offer time for discussion and problem-solving.” Professor Ratto-Parks sent a follow-up communication (below).

- The UPWA spring Workshop used a different approach to scoring last year that worked well. Papers were scored anonymously by two people. Tables only discussed papers that had a disagreement in scores. Participates also had the opportunity to document strengths and weaknesses. The scores were somewhat higher and the comments were more positive likely because participates felt less pressure. The biggest challenge is getting intermediate writing course instructors to attend.
- The Committee discussed and revised the flow narrative for appeals (appended below). Camie will draft a policy for the next meeting.
- There has not been any additional progress on the UPWA data analysis because Professor Ratto Parks does not have access to the files and has not received them from former Writing Center Director Kelly Webster. Amy has been working with Julie Cannon and cannot figure out why the data is not importing from Banner. She is unsure whether the Banner data analysis is useful, so will send the draft report to members for discussion at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

FOLLOW-UP MESSAGE REGARDING THE SYMPOSIUM

Language for the FDO posting/info to share in letters:

“Take 2: Knowing When and How to Revise Writing Assignments”

Friday, November 2 from 1-3 in UC 225

The 2018 Fall Writing Symposium will be a shared discussion about designing strong writing assignments. Bring a writing assignment you'd like to discuss either because it works well – or because it doesn't. Our workshop will help identify the hallmarks of strong writing assignments and offer time for discussion and problem-solving. For more information, contact Amy Ratto Parks at amy.rattoparks@umontana.edu.

My vision for how this will work.

Given the conversation in the group this week, and given that Erin will be out of town for this, I'm thinking that I might just prepare a presentation and then lead a discussion of the samples people bring in. I'll talk about writing assignments (large and small, formal and informal) that really didn't work very well on the first try. I'll present both the initial and revised versions and will describe how and where the students and I were not communicating well/ I wasn't doing a good job of explaining what I was hoping for in the assignment. I'll try to make sure that one or two are assignments that would be useful for folks to take with them.

Then, for the bulk of the time, I'm hoping that we can hear about the situations attendees are having in their classes. I really think this one ought to be super practical! My goal would be for everyone to have a clear idea about how they might revise an assignment and/or a new idea or two about how they might integrate writing into the class.

Snacks, coffee, and tea will be provided if we have the budget. ☺

WRITING APPEAL FLOW

Background/context:

At UM, students must satisfy the following three requirements in order:

1. Introductory College Writing;
2. Intermediate College Writing;
3. Advanced College Writing

(link: <http://catalog.umt.edu/academics/general-education-requirements/>)

I don't want to take WRIT 095.

Because I want to work toward meeting my general education requirements ---> Register for WRIT 101+

Because I think I was placed in the wrong course ---> Challenge your placement

<http://hs.umt.edu/english/composition/writing-placement.php>

I have an issue with my Introductory Writing Requirement (WRIT 101)

I don't think I need WRIT 101

because I think that I have scores that place me into 201 (WRIT 201 is the **only** course that counts for both introductory and intermediate writing) --->

<http://admissions.umt.edu/apply/transfer/transfer-credits.php>

because I have transfer credit that I think ought to count --->

<http://hs.umt.edu/english/composition/transfer-students.php>

I have already taken my Intermediate and/or Advanced Writing course and do not want to take the Introductory course --->

Students are required to take Introductory Writing even if they were not required to do so at another institution and even if the courses are taken out of order; the goals and expectations of the three General Education Writing courses are distinct and all offer something to writers at all stages of their UM experience.

I have an issue with my Intermediate Writing Requirement

I have already taken my Advanced Writing course and do not want to take my Intermediate Writing course --->

Students are required to take Intermediate Writing even if they were not required to do so at another institution and even if the courses are taken out of order; the goals and expectations of the three General Education Writing courses are distinct and all offer something to writers at all stages of their UM experience.

I want to petition to have another writing course count as my Intermediate Writing course --->

I am graduating this semester -->

submit an appeal to the Graduation Appeals Committee

<https://www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/GraduationAppealsForm.pdf>

I am not graduating this semester --->

submit an appeal to the Writing Committee

http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/committees/writing_committee/default.php

I have an issue with my Advanced Writing Requirement

I need to take an Advanced Writing Course, but can't find one --->

Visit the UM Course search: <http://www.umt.edu/academicplanner/coursesearch/search.html>

From the menu marked, "Term" select the term for which you wish to register.

From the menu marked, "Gen Ed Requirements Course Attributes" select "writing course - advanced"

Mark other criteria if you wish to narrow your search

I have taken an Advanced Writing course, but it was not in my major --->

You have met the General Education Requirement for Advanced Writing but it may not satisfy your Major requirement. Contact and consult with the chair of your department for your major for further direction.

I have not yet taken an Advanced Writing Course and am hoping to substitute a course from another institution --->

You have not met the General Education Requirement for Advanced Writing nor have you met the Major requirement. Contact and consult with the chair of your department of your major for further direction.

Addendum for the Major Programs staff/faculty facilitating the Advanced Writing Requirement substitution process:

- If the major program approves the class to meet the **major** requirement, the department will contact the writing committee to have them review the class to make sure it meets the **writing** requirement.

Addendum for the Writing Committee

- If the writing committee approves the advanced writing course, the writing committee will contact the registrar to have them override the requirement and notify the department that the course was approved by the writing committee.