

ASCRC WRITING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, September 10th, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., MLIB 322

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Hickman, E. Wecker

MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED: S. Grogan, N. Lindsay

The minutes from 4/30/18 were approved.

COMMUNICATION

- Members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed. The new Writing Center Director was at a new employee orientation so missed the meeting.
- Rolling review of general education courses including writing is on hold. The General Education Committee is charged with developing a UM Core pilot.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Currently students must file a graduation appeal to substitute an advanced writing course. Over the summer 3 situations were brought to the attention of Chair Baucom. Since the course is both a major requirement and a general education and taken at the upper-division level, departments would like to have more flexibility in meeting the requirement in special circumstances. The agenda included two email correspondence that described the students situation (Mathematics and Psychology). There was also a student in History that needed an online advanced writing course to complete his degree. The Department Chair granted permission to apply one of the available UM Online courses to meet the requirement.

Given the President's student centered focus, the committee should consider providing a process for departments to make substitutions approved by the Writing Committee rather than requiring the student to file an appeal. The Writing Committee would need to inform the Graduation Coordinator that the substitution was approved by the Writing Committee. Chairs cannot override general education requirements in DegreeWorks. Students should not have to wait for an appeal decision to know whether a course will meet the requirement, especially if they are off campus and working with their advisor to take a course that will count. Professor

Ratto-Parks drew a flow chart on the White Board. The process will need to be documented and communicated to departments. Camie will inform Professor Vonessen and Psalda-Petree that the Committee is working on the issue.

- The Committee agreed that the Writing Symposium should be scheduled for November 2 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members discussed possible topics and formats. It settled on a round table experience for faculty to talk about assignments that worked and didn't. They will be asked to bring materials to share (limited to 2 one page documents). Last year the panel discussion did not contribute to faculty development, which is the goal of the Symposium. Professor Ratto-Parks will confirm funding for the event.
- The final UPWA report was not available because of difficulty with extracting data from Banner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.