# **ASCRC Writing Committee Meeting**

Monday, October 3, 2016, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Skaggs 174

Call to Order   
Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: E. Baucom, S. Brown, J. Gallo, E. Holst, J. Pavilack, A. Ratto-Parks, T. Slater, B. Sweeney, C. Winkler  
*Ex-Officio Members Present:* N. Lindsay   
Members Absent/Excused: G. Gardner, K. Webster, E. Wecker   
  
The minutes from 9/12/16 were approved.

Communication

* Members introduced themselves and new members were welcomed. The committee will normally meet on the first Monday of the month.
* There are two Intermediate and two Advanced (now three) Writing Courses to review. Chair Brown asked for volunteers to review the courses. The following groups will conduct the review.

Intermediate Writing (Professors Baucom, Pavilack, Sweeney)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| CSCI 104 | Interdisciplinary Computing: Practical Computational Problem Solving | |
| LIT 201 | The Study of Literature |  |

Advanced Writing (Professors Gallo, Slater-Smith, and Winkler)

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| CLAS 399 | Classics Proseminar |  |
| ECNS 481 | Economics |  |
| [RLST 369 | Contemplative Traditions of Asia- late] |  |

## Business Items

* The revised Transfer Appeal Procedure was approved by ASCRC and will go to ECOS this week for consideration. [ECOS sent the procedure back to the Committee.] The Workgroup plans to attend the monthly advising meeting to provide information about the revised policy and send a letter to the Admissions Office.
* The group working on the Writing Symposium provided an update. The workshop will be on November 2nd from 1:00-3:00 in LA 103. The format will consist of an introduction, a four-student panel, and breakout workshop discussions. The student panel questions will be crafted to stimulate the faculty discussions around the theme of organization and revision. It was suggested that the breakout groups have a task to report back with takeaways for all participants. The plan is to ask faculty that regularly teach intermediate writing courses to be facilitators of the breakout discussions. Perhaps members of the Writing Committee could serve as note takers. Professor Baucom volunteered. Light refreshments will be served. The workshop will be advertised to graduate students as well as faculty that teach writing across disciplines, not only writing designated courses. An invitation will be sent to department chairs, writing instructors and TAs. Flyers should be posted in various departments as well. Camie will draft the flyer and Amy will work on the invitation and introduction slides. She will give the introduction.
* The current 27 transfer credit rule which exempts students from the intermediate writing requirement was created in 2000-2001when the general education requirements in the perspectives was 27 credits. Transfer students were required to complete all general education except those transferring an approved lower-division general education requirement had only to complete the writing assessment and upper-division major writing requirement. This rule seems outdated and should be evaluated. Additional information will be gathered from the Office of Student Success to determine whether eliminating the rule would harm transfer students. Professor Ratto-Parks indicated that the current rule does not exempt students from the Introductory Writing requirement. [ASCRC was informed that the committee was considering eliminating the rule. It requested that the committee investigate a mechanism that allowed students to test out of the requirement if the rule is eliminated.]
* There is confusion regarding whether or not dual enrollment courses should be included in UPWA. The students have a NetID, but the instructors, who have UM Faculty affiliate status, do not. Professor Slater is working with Beverly Chin to provide a training workshop for the instructors.
* Associate Provost Lindsay and Professor Ratto-Parks would like to initiate a pilot of advanced writing courses in the spring. This will require modifying the rubric and identifying instructors to participate. The participants will be asked to use the rubric to assess students’ final papers. This data is needed to complete the general education assessment cycle for accreditation.
* Director Wecker is working with Dean Comer on an Introductory Writing Course for International Students. Hopefully this will be in place by spring. The Writing Center also offers targeted support. The placement exam change implemented in January should help to identify international students that need assistance. Students are allowed to take the exam once and then must request to challenge.
* Director Wecker is also working with Missoula College to transition to the same placement exam. The discussion regarding the gap between WRIT 095 and WRIT 101 and possible solutions is pending. Missoula College’s Writing Studies lead is now Dr Jessica Doughtery McMichael. Professor Bridget Carson oversees WRIT 095 courses. has a new Director for Writing Studies
* Associate Provost Lindsay and Professor Ratto- Parks will consult Associate VP Dawn Ressell regarding further data analysis of the UPWA data. This is something the Writing Committee should be involved in.
* The Writing Committee deferred the discussion of transitioning the rolling review timeline until the General Education Committee makes its decision. The Committees should be on the same timeline.
* The Committee briefly discussed whether there was a need for a comprehensive plagiarism policy. There is a policy in WRIT 101 classes. Professor Ratto-Parks sent the link to a [chart](mailto:http://thevisualcommunicationguy.com/2014/09/16/did-i-plagiarize-the-types-and-severity-of-plagiarism-violations/) used in WRIT courses. There is a plagiarism policy in the student conduct code and the Writing Center has resources. Plagiarism could easily be the topic of a workshop. Students need to hear a consistent message from faculty. Perhaps the Writing Committee should also work on a communication campaign around this issue. The topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.
* A workgroup is needed to make sure the language that refers to the requirements of the writing program is consistent in the various documents and online resources. This workgroup will be formed at the next meeting.

## Good and Welfare

* Professor Pavilack inquired about the appropriate way to advise students in advanced classes whose work is full of grammatical errors. It’s the students’ responsibility to use the available resources.

## Adjournment

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