Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee
October 6, 2014
12:00 pm, Union Board Room

Present: Nathan Miczo (chair), Samit Chakravorti, Courtney Blankenship, Tawnya Adkins Covert, Magdelyn Helwig, Neil Baird, Mei Wen.

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.
2. New members welcomed. Debra Allwardt, Health Sciences and Social Work; Julia Albarracin, Political Science.
3. Approval of Minutes from 9-22-2014. Approved as written with one correction (removing Shane Sanders from “absent” as he is not a member this semester).
4. Announcements:

Approval of FL 350. Miczo announced FL350 was approved at Faculty Senate and he would contact Gary Schmidt about placing the syllabus on the website.

CITR Sessions. Upcoming sessions were announced at Faculty Senate.

Shane Sanders. Replacement is still outstanding.

2nd meeting of the month. Miczo would like to devote the 2nd meeting in the month to ongoing issues in better attempts to achieve progress. For example: WID Journal. The committee decided to invite Jim Rabchuk to the next meeting to discuss the journal.

Magdelyn Helwig Faculty Initiative. Helwig asked for WID’s support for a faculty initiative she’s putting forth for a consortium on writing because there is no coordination of writing efforts across campus. “Western Writes” would be a clearinghouse for anything to do with writing and a way to make writing more centrally visible. Background: outside consultant from a couple of years ago recommended a position devoted to WAC-WID issues; due to budgetary reasons this cannot happen. Western Writes could serve in this capacity with an official brand/logo. WID Committee agreed to review the application and consider officially supporting her efforts.

5. Update on list of WID Instructors. Adkins Covert explained her report that included a listing of every WID course listed in the catalog and a current list of Fall 2014 WID courses/instructors. Discussion on current lists; the merits of updating lists every semester; whether we need just the instructors, just the classes or both; and who is the best departmental contact to provide WID course information followed. Helwig said it was considered part of WID’s charge to maintain a list of WID instructors. Contacting departmental advisors and/or secretaries was proposed. Miczo mentioned he would need to send department chairs an update on WID guidelines, at that point he could request a department “contact” for WID courses. Committee discussed merits of member(s) contacting faculty directly as well. Blankenship volunteered to contact Institutional Research and Planning to inquire if a report on WID courses/faculty could be run every semester.

1. Review of WID Form. There was discussion on accessing the form; guidelines are under the “guidelines” tab, but just the form isn’t under the “form” tab. Discussion on adding an “approved statement to include on WID syllabi” on the form OR instructing approved courses to add the statement later. Miczo said he would review the form and send it to all for input before sending to Annette Hamm.
2. WID Journal. Tabled until next meeting due to time restrictions.
3. Review of WID Courses. Miczo indicated he would wait to request volunteer departments until next Spring.
4. Overenrollment. Miczo contacted the department chairs for LEJA 440 and MUS 390. Discussion followed regarding the importance of raising awareness for overenrolled courses, and where a summary report should be sent (Provost? Deans? Faculty Senate?).
5. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting time, Noon, October 20, Union Board Room.

Respectfully, Courtney Blankenship