

## WRITING INSTRUCTION IN THE DISCIPLINES: AY 2019-2020 REPORT

### Council:

*Faculty:* Glen Daugherty (Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, 2022); Jenna Gardner (Music, 2022); Joel Gruver (Agriculture, 2022); Doug LaFountain (Mathematics and Philosophy, 2022); Brian Locke (Chair, Music, 2021); Kim McClure (Psychology, 2021); Anna Valeva (Economics & Design Sciences, 2020); one unfilled COEHS vacancy (2023). No Student Member.

*Ex-Officio:* Magdelyn Helwig (English); Amy Patrick Mossman (English).

### Summary

The 2019-2020 WID Council met was scheduled to meet 7 times (3 in the fall, 4 in the spring), though the final two meetings were cancelled due to COVID-19. The final task of electing officers for 2020-2021 was accomplished by email. The Committee met once a month, though not until February 2020 was there a quorum for the duration of a full meeting. The major focus of the Committee for the AY 2019-2020 was to complete the revision of WID forms and have them pass through Faculty Senate; and to generate ideas to improve the visibility of WID for faculty at WIU.

The review of existing WID courses could not be accomplished initially because of lack of quorum and, subsequently, the time limitations of all council members teaching through the beginning of a pandemic. The Committee also focused on completing the review of WID forms; generating ideas for improvement to the WID Council website and removal of outdated material; bolstering attendance at WID-sponsored events; and the necessity of having a fixed day/time for the Council to meet, set before the semester begins.

### Activities

- A. To recommend to the Faculty Senate the approval or disapproval of all new WID courses

No new WID courses were proposed in 2019-2020.

- B. To recommend to the Faculty Senate the approval or disapproval of all significant changes in the WID requirements for individual majors.

No changes to WID requirements were brought forward in 2019-2020.

C. To conduct periodic reviews of all WID courses to assure compliance with the principles and practices of the Writing Instruction in the Disciplines graduation requirement.

The review of existing WID courses and the approval of new WID designations could not be accomplished initially because of lack of quorum and, subsequently, the time limitations of all council members teaching through the beginning of a pandemic. We identified that the only remaining courses to be reviewed in the current cycle are KIN 350, KIN 444, and PETE 411.

D. To maintain a list of all current instructors of WID courses.

The Council completed an overhauled list of current WID instructors and courses in February 2020, as this had not been addressed in over two years. Many persons on the list were either retired, moved away from WIU, or in some cases long deceased. The Council worked closely with Annette Hamm and consulted with each college representative to ensure the list's accuracy.

E. To monitor course enrollment in WID courses

In Fall 2019 there were no overenrolled WID courses. In Spring 2020, there were only three overenrolled sections within WID courses: LEJA 440 (1 section); LEJA 442 (1 section); and RDG 384 (1 section). In the response to my follow-up email, Dr. Jill Myers (LEJA) described (February 12<sup>th</sup>) that without more ACEs forthcoming from the University, she could do nothing to ameliorate the situation: she had at the time exhausted the ACE loads of all qualified faculty, both full-time and adjunct; and that TAs were not qualified to teach these classes because they did not have the pertinent experience to the course subject matter. She expressed that it was important to convey this message via Faculty Senate to University administrators as it is an ongoing concern. I did not receive any reply from Reading on the subject of RDG 384.

F. To secure periodic feedback from students, faculty, alumni, and employers concerning implementation and effects of the Writing Instruction in the Disciplines graduation requirement.

The above was not accomplished in the 2019-2020 period.

G. To sponsor one or more faculty development activities each year to improve Writing Instruction in the Disciplines courses.

The Council debated this topic in every session, both when we had a quorum and, informally, when we did not. We discussed possible changes to the institutional culture pertaining to WID to encourage greater faculty buy-in and sustained investment of time and interest. Our plan was to host a social gathering for WID-course (or any) faculty in early April 2020, during which we would gain real-time feedback for what their instructional and developmental needs were regarding the teaching of writing. We would then begin to implement these suggestions into an early Fall semester workshop, targeting new or recently hired faculty especially. The pandemic (particularly

the stay-at-home order through the end of the Spring 2020 semester) made follow-through on these plans highly impractical.

## H. To perform such other duties as designated by the Faculty Senate.

The WID Council has much work to do in fulfilling its mandate, and still believes in the necessity of reframing the culture of participation in WID-related activities among faculty at WIU. The coming year may see these projects come to fruition, notably the continued retooling of the WID website and posting of additional electronic resources for the teaching of writing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brian Locke  
Chair, Writing Instruction in the Disciplines Council  
AY 2019-2020