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Writing Implementation Committee, Illinois Wesleyan University

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MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMMITTEE 4 November 2010

Present: C. Sweet, M. Coleman, M. Bushman, C. Ferradans, D. Mendez-Carbajo, J. Haefner

Convened: 4:02 p.m.

Mary Ann and Mary commented on the recent Writing Intensive workshop conducted by CC. During the session it became obvious that the WI description in the Gen Ed handbook was chiefly prescriptive for instructors; it was not focused on student outcomes. There was general consensus that this language needs to be changed in order to bring WI goals and criteria in line with the Writing Committee's Learning Outcomes Statement (in final draft stage) and that the review of the WI gen ed flag would be a good opportunity to discuss changes.

Mary Ann clarified the PNC grant to the Business Administration Department; the modest grant will focus on the teaching of writing in business classes.

Because committee members favored linking CD grants derived from the Mellon Grant and reviewed by the Writing Committee to our Learning Outcomes Statement for the Writing Program, it was generally agreed that any CD grants for creating new WI-flagged courses should be delayed until the March 1 deadline. Any CD grants hosted by the Writing Committee will be delayed until March for this reason, members decided.

Members then discussed changes to the draft Learning Outcomes Statement. We agreed that two sentences should be added to the Introduction of the Learning Outcomes Statement, one sentence which discusses the importance of critical thinking and critical reading for writing outcomes, and a second sentence which provides an explicit link to the Information Literacy Outcomes for the Writing Program document, soon to be posted on the Writing Program Website under Assessment. The final draft of the Learning Outcomes Statement will be circulated to CC.

There was speculative discussion among committee members about the possibility of adopting an Information Literacy flag for the General Education program.

We then turned our attention to the draft of a call for grant applications for faculty-librarian collaborations aimed at integrating information literacy into writing intensive courses. The draft of the call was written by Carmela and Chris. The major suggestion was to turn the ending bullet list of criteria for the grant into a narrative paragraph of suggestions. We also decided that the grant was to be modest because it was not a full-blown CD grant but rather seed money to work out ideas that could be applied immediately (to spring classes); to that end, the amount of \$600, split between two applicants, was approved, and a deadline date of Dec. 1, to coincide with CD grant deadlines, though not part of the CD grant process.

The draft language of grants for the development of teaching portfolios from WI teachers was briefly discussed, but we delayed a full discussion pending CC approval of our Learning Outcomes Statement.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 18, 4:00 p.m., Ames 214.

Meeting adjourned: 5:07 p.m.

Submitted: J. Haefner