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November 13, 2012

Writing Implementation Committee, Illinois Wesleyan University

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Writing Committee Minutes 11.13.2012

Present: Kelahan, Sweet, Mendez-Carabajo, Kunce, Bushman, Haefner

Convened at: 4:05 p.m.

The committee initially discussed additional revisions to the goals and criteria language for the Writing Intensive flag, especially goal # 1. The committee made several proposed changes; Mary Ann undertook to make those revisions. Diego suggested we do have a forum for faculty teaching WI classes, with the proposed changes emailed to them ahead of time. Mary Ann will schedule said forum in January.

We then shifted to a discussion of promoting a culture of writing on campus. Linda noted that some faculty development events did indeed further this culture; Joel noted that with the Best Gateway Essay contest there was at least somewhat more student writing circulating. Emily noted that a shift in attitude on the part of both faculty and students was needed, and she suggested a “pen is mightier than the sword” campaign, which she had seen on other campuses, wherein students write letters to officials, a sort of community outreach. We then had a discussion about ways to promote this. Linda also suggested we bring in speakers for students to discuss writing, as was the case with Rebecca Skloot’s talk. Mary Ann finding different venues for students to write to, not just fictional situations.

We also discussed grants for conference attendance when the conference or presentation specifically tied in with information literacy and writing pedagogy; there is a generous line in the budget for travel. Diego suggested that proposals should clearly connect with IL and writing goals, and that the narrative should be no longer than 600 words. He also volunteered to draft a call for proposals for such a grant.

Adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Submitted by J. Haefner