April 14, 2010

Writing Implementation Committee, Illinois Wesleyan University

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MINUTES Writing Committee 4.14.2010

Present: Diego Mendez-Carbajo, Tom Quinn, Zahia Drici (ex officio), Carolyn Nadeau, Stephanie Davis-Kahl, Mary Ann Bushman (chair), Joel Haefner (ex officio)

Convened at: 3:36 p.m.

We opened with a discussion of the draft learning outcomes statement, and the idea of restoring the idea of pleasure in writing to this document. SDK suggested moving some text (perhaps information literacy and history) to a mission statement on the Writing Program website, and mentioned again hosting videos of faculty discussing the teaching of writing on the Program website. SDK also suggested links from the learning outcomes statement to writing examples stored in our Digital Commons. DMC volunteered to create a graphical representation of the learning outcomes statement over the summer. MAB asked for suggestions about advertising and circulating the learning outcomes statement. ZD suggested a session focusing on assessment where the learning outcomes statement was presented along with assessment data.

Some discussion of the fall faculty conference ensued. If the fall faculty conference focused on assessment, presentations from the Writing Program and the Ames Library staff would be logical. Several people suggested one break-out session focusing on how to integrate information literacy issues into the Gateway and other courses.

MAB mentioned an external review of the Writing Program funded by the Mellon Grant and recommended by our outside consultant, Bill Condon. The Director and Coordinator feel that the review service offered by the Writing Program Administrators group might be inappropriate because reviewers are from large publics; we would like to invite SLAC reviewers instead, and have contacted Carol Rutz at Carleton to explore that possibility. We will adapt a WPA self-study document for our own environment, and the Writing Committee may be asked for some input during the self-study and review process.

A review of the Writing Program website followed. ZD suggested that in the Resources for Students page we clarify when the sophomore requirement goes into effect. DMC also suggested we calculate Standard Deviation for the dimensions of our scoring guide for past and future data, and to post this on the website. DCM also passed along a suggestion from Carmela Ferradans that we create writing assignment templates and post these; ZD suggested that we offer stipends from the grant money for doing so. We also discussed the possibility of getting links to the Writing Program site on the Orientation and Advising sites.

Discussion then turned to the tentative schedule for development events for 2010-2011. MAB discussed the year’s theme, Writing in the Disciplines, and how the Summer Writing Institute (August 11-13), visits by Molly Constanza-Davidson and other experts in writing in the sciences and humanities, and our January symposium might coordinate with this theme.
The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Submitted by J. Haefner