2015

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Writing Implementation Committee, Illinois Wesleyan University

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Writing Committee Minutes   09.23.2015

Present:  Bill Hudson, Lynda Duke, Lisa Searing, Mike Theune, Joel Haefner (ex officio)

Convened:  4:04 pm

The meeting opened with a short discussion of minutes from the previous meeting. Lynda asked about a reference to the Gateway syllabus review, and Mike responded by recapping the discussion about syllabus review both for the Gateway and (possibly) WI courses. The minutes were approved.

Mike opened by asking for a review of the Writing Program website. Lynda advised that less text is better, and recommended inclusion of photos, especially of faculty and students working together. She also said that Shireen Schrock should be queried about taking down the Mellon Grant pages. There was consensus that the Faculty and Administration tabs should be taken down, and minutes moved to Meg Miner for posting and archiving.

Mike preferred more dynamic images, and Bill Hudson observed that we were not using some of the capabilities of the Web, for example pop-up or mouseover functionalities. Mike raised the possibility of a Facebook page, and there was also discussion about the usefulness of a blog. All observed that the issue was updating and keeping content current.

The Assessment tab/pages definitely need reorganization, it was agreed. Lynda urged links so WP webmasters have to update less; Joel pressed to keep our assessment data and summaries intranet only.

The Resources for Students and for Faculty both need reorganization. Mike suggested, for the latter suite of pages, the three best sites for writing assignments, and he urged committee members to try to do some research and proffer suggestions. Lynda extolled the virtues of short videos for students.

This led to a general discussion. Mike asserted that short videos would work best in blogs or Facebook, and that he would like a place where students or faculty could post fun stuff, perhaps a FB page, where post-workshop comments from faculty could also be posted. Lisa also observed that students use the APA blog, and that Instagram is also very popular with students. Facebook could also be used for National Day on Writing events, Mike said, as well as promoting the Summer Essay Reading competition, although the Writing Program is not involved in that program.

We also agreed that as a committee we should look at other websites, breaking into teams to explore some specific topics, such as feedback techniques, rubrics, etc.

Adjourned at: 4:55 pm

Submitted by Joel Haefner