

MINUTES

GWAR Committee

Meeting Number 11 – Via Zoom

May 7, 2021, 1:30 – 3:00

In attendance: Joseph Aubele, Eve Baker, Lori Brown, Jason Deutschman, Annel Estrada, Noah Golden, Sarvenaz Hatami, Elizabeth Lindau, Cynthia Pastrana, Benjamin Perlman, Shabnam Sodagari, and Alexandra Wilkinson. Donna Binkiewicz and Courtney Stammler joined for the conclusion of the meeting.

Brown called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Wilkinson moved, Golden seconded, and the committee unanimously voted to approve the agenda.

Approval of the Minutes: The committee reviewed the minutes from the April 16, 2021 meeting. Lindau was asked to amend the wording of a sentence about lower pass rates among Asian American students. After this, Golden moved, Aubele seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

Announcements: Following a meeting among Brown, Johnson, and the testing office, a fall schedule for administering and reading the GPE online and in person has been developed. It should accommodate every student. Cameras are mandatory for online versions of the test. This will help identify and verify students' identities and flag any suspicious behavior during the exam period. The new GPEAC appointed by the Academic Senate will help determine the future of the GPE.

Graduate students who did not take the online pilot will have an opportunity to take a pilot in June, and transfer students and “native” students will be able to take a pilot in July. This should alleviate any accumulated backlog of students. Brown reported that the waiver process revealed some students who were languishing behind on their progress toward fulfilling the GVAR. This should bring us a “clean slate.”

Ad-Hoc Writing Intensive (WI) Course Committee and WI Course Review: Hatami and Wilkinson reported on behalf of the WI subcommittee, which had agreed to review a course submitted by CL—Journalism 360—at the last minute.

It proved to be a useful case study in articulating our collective expectations for WI courses. Hatami reported that having an actual example of a course to evaluate tested the subcommittee's newly written course certification form, revealing things that could be made more explicit. For example, Hatami raised the interesting question of how we define terms such "drafting" and "invention." Are these things different? Golden added the phrase "generative writing" and Brown "pre-writing" to this list. All suggest an initial stage of a larger project, one that precedes feedback from a reader. Aubele called the example "instructive."

The committee offered questions and critiques of Journalism 360 as a WI course. Aubele worried that it focused too heavily on BeachBoard discussion posts and not enough on formal writing. Brown thought that too much focus was on content knowledge assessed *through* writing rather than assessment of the writing itself. Lindau questioned the degree to which any writing can be assessed independently of content.

While the committee had some misgivings about the Journalism 360 course, it was ultimately approved. Wilkinson argued that the faculty members did what was asked. Brown thought that the presentation was somewhat lacking, but felt some urgency to approve the course given its importance for the specific program and the availability of WI courses. Golden moved to conditionally approve the course. Lindau seconded. The committee unanimously approved the course.

Waiver requests: The committee reviewed a waiver request from 20-21-VU. Noah reported that this student passed the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET) exam successfully. Brown said that that needs to be on our list of approved outside tests along with the GRE and the GMAT. Discussion of setting precedents through waivers ensued. Baker reported that only 20 students had registered to take the exam, which made the committee less sympathetic to the waiver requests. Golden moved to deny, and Lindau seconded. The committee voted unanimously to deny the request.

The second waiver request came from 20-21-KX. Pastrana shared that this student is enrolled in a GVAR portfolio course, and the committee briefly discussed her semester of coursework at the University of California, Irvine. Aubele moved to deny. Golden seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to deny the waiver request.

The final waiver request came from 20-21-HK. Aubele and Golden both spoke in favor of granting his request. Lindau moved, Golden seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to approve the waiver request.

A third discussion of **GPE Data Analysis** with Lizette Rojas and Kerry Johnson did not happen during this meeting.

GWAR Coordinator's report: At the conclusion of the meeting, Brown looked to the future. This has been a year of trying to keep the program going, simply waiving requirements, and “playing around the edges” of our policies. We planned for fall, graduated some people, and made it possible for others to graduate. Brown discussed a potential survey of student and faculty perspectives of writing on campus. Sending material out to the whole campus would be a big deal! A similar survey was performed when Brown was a committee member, but nothing ever changed as a result. (Both students and faculty reported concerns about grammar and mechanics.) Brown hopes to make CSULB the systemwide model for writing pedagogy.

Brown thanked the committee for making difficult decisions during the year. She shared that she has been the GWAR representative for many years, and that this committee was particularly impressive.

On that positive note, **the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Ann Lindau