

## **MINUTES**

GWAR Committee

**1:30 – 3:00**

**Meeting Number 16**

**May 5, 2023**

**In attendance:** Joseph Aubele, Eve Baker, Lori Brown, Navdeep Dhillon, Meghan Griffith, Sarvenaz Hatami, Loretta Ramirez, Deepti Singh, Alexandra Wilkinson

**Call to Order:** 1:38 pm

### **Approval of Agenda**

Aubele moves to approve the agenda, and Baker seconds the approval. The agenda is unanimously approved.

### **Approval of meeting Minutes for April 21, 2023**

Baker moves to approve the minutes, and Aubele seconds the motion. The minutes are unanimously approved.

### **Announcements**

Brown notes that the approved minutes and agendas must be sent to appropriate sources, but Wilkinson has already handled this.

Brown recently received communications that the Academic Senate Executive Committee met and decided not to suspend the GPE. This will be in effect until further notice or the policy changes. There is currently no plan to revote at this time. There will be a review of the current proposal for the new policy; however, this could take a long time. Brown notes that a similar or very different proposal could emerge after review. As the suspension of the GPE will not occur, Baker and the testing team are putting together the GPE calendar for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024.

Brown states that now that a vote has occurred not to suspend the GPE, communication should be uniform across the campus, that the GPE needs to be taken. Hopefully, this will ensure clarity among students, advisors, and faculty.

Baker states that the April GPE took place, and 2516 students tested. The June and Fall semester GPE dates are already posted for students to review. Brown notes that Stammler has been inundated with questions about the GPE, but hopefully, this will be reduced with the recent vote to keep the GPE. Advisors and the SOAR program should send updated information about the required GPE. The new GWAR advisor will assist with the GWAR communication across campus.

Wilkinson will continue to work on the Canvas page set up for GWARC.

### **Student Waiver Request**

NU36 entered Cal State Long Beach as a transfer student in Fall 2021 but took the GPE in Spring 2023. The student scored a six on the GPE. However, the student does not feel that was indicative of her writing ability. NU36 is required to take a portfolio course based on the GPE score. The student was able to enroll in a writing intensive class and received an A in Fall 2022. The student enrolled in and passed the WI class before taking the GPE. The student believes that the GPE, 301A, and portfolio class should be waived so that NU36 can meet the GVAR. NU36 states that when taking the GPE, the student experienced something that impacted her ability to focus. The student submitted letters of support documenting that they were not in the best mental state during the exam. However, specifics were not provided even when asked for more details. As evidence of writing ability, the student offers various letters of support from faculty in her program, including a letter from her department and multiple emails from instructors. Brown notes that the student has excellent grades. Brown also notes that the student waited until the semester they were expected to graduate to take the GPE. NU36 did not mention that she was distracted or that something inhibited her ability to take the test until after the scores were released.

Brown asked Baker if any students needed to leave the GPE early that day, felt weird, or sick, or if any other anomalies occurred that day. However, nothing was reported to testing that day. Therefore, the student did not report anything until after receiving the GPE score. Brown adds that the student took the test online. BMAC was also contacted to address if the student could retake the exam. However, no known medical reasons or BMAC accommodations justify retaking the exam.

Stammler had previously advised the student to take 301A and 301B after NU36 contacted her. Brown also notes that she can allow the student to take 301A and B simultaneously as a GVAR coordinator. However, at this moment, 301A is not being offered this summer, but 301B is being offered. Another liberal arts instructor also suggested that a substitution could be made for 301A instead of waiving the class. Brown is not in support of having a class substitute for 301A because this could lead to other class substitution requests in the future. The committee agrees with this.

Aubele understands that the committee is hesitant to set a precedent of allowing substitution. Aubele would, however, support allowing the student to retake the exam. Brown notes an anomaly occurring between her grades and her GPE score. Brown agrees this may be a rare occasion when we allow a test retake. Although Stammler could not attend the meeting, Brown discusses Stammler's hesitation in allowing the student to retake the test as the committee does not have any evidence to support the student's distressed mental status at the time. This precedent may cause additional challenges. Brown also notes that Stammler suggests waiving 301A may be the better option. There may be adequate evidence with her high GPE and instructor support to waive 301A rather than justify a test retake.

Wilkinson asks if there was any reason why the student waited so long to take the GPE. However, Brown notes that no explanation was provided. Aubele notes that there was a time when students were allowed to take the test multiple times. However, the current policy does not support this. Brown notes that this committee cannot override the GVAR advisor according to GVAR policy. Therefore, retaking the test must be approved by GVAR advising. Brown notes

she favors some leniency in the case and is more supportive of waiving 301A and allowing her to take 301B over the summer.

Wilkinson motions to waive 301A for NU36 due to extenuating circumstances and university constraints so that 301 B can be taken during the summer session and meet the GVAR. Aubele seconds the motion, and the motion passes.

### **New Business**

Brown recalls an accommodation made last semester for the COB's newly implemented writing-intensive class. Previously, IS 301 - Business Communication was taken in the first semester after business students transferred to the university. This caused issues with sequencing for business students and did not allow students to progress through their degrees in a timely manner. A similar situation is occurring this semester, and students cannot register for IS 301 because they do not have 45 units officially, even though they have taken the GPE. Brown is requesting to extend the accommodation from last semester so students can enroll in their writing-intensive class and progress accordingly with their degrees.

Aubele motions to continue the College of Business accommodation to allow students to enroll in the WI course after taking the GPE and are between 45 to 60 units. Ramirez seconds the motion. The motion passes.

Brown thanks the committee for the outstanding work and all we have accomplished this semester.

**Adjournment:** 2:44 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Alexandra Wilkinson