

MINUTES
GWAR Committee
1:30 – 3:00
Meeting Number 6
December 1, 2023

In attendance: Eve Baker, Nicollete Brant, Lori Brown, Navdeep Dhillon Tom Do, Lorenzo Gutierrez-Jarquin, Benjamin Perlman, Loretta Ramirez, Deepti Singh, Courtney Stammier, Katherin Toscano, Alexandra Wilkinson

Called to order: 1:36 pm

Approval of Agenda

Brown motions to add the GWAR Proposal Charter to the agenda. Baker moves to approve the agenda as amended, and Ramirez seconds the motion. The amended agenda is unanimously approved.

Approval of meeting Minutes for November 17. 2023

Wilkinson calls for a minor amendment under the approval of minutes section for an incorrect word. Baker motions to approve the minutes as amended, Brant seconds the motions. The Minutes are approved as amended.

Announcements

Brown recalls the last GWAR meeting when the committee discussed holds being placed on students' records. The holds have been viewed as administrative holds that prevent students from graduating. The holds in discussion are placed on student accounts when they need to take the GPE. A hold is also placed if students must enroll in a portfolio class. Although they are uncomfortable for students for a brief time, the holds result in students graduating on time. Brown notes that she brought the holds up once more during an administration meeting, and they have agreed to look at them an additional time. Holds that serve an academic purpose may be returned next semester. The committee is thankful for Brown's efforts on this matter.

Brown notes that the WAC proposal is currently stalled. CEPC has allowed members to take the proposal back to their colleges for feedback. CEPC will resume looking over the proposal next semester as a committee. Brown has met with the associate Deans from several colleges, including the College of the Arts and Engineering. Brown has meetings scheduled with the Faculty Council for the College of Business and the Faculty Council for Liberal Arts. Next week, Brown will meet with all the associate deans for every college.

Brown is anticipating what types of concerns departments may have. Brown also notes that she is taking some liberties, such as class sizes and room availability. Brown has reassured colleges that some of the proposal's specifics can be negotiated. Brown has also shared that a letter for

funding has been created to ease some discomfort. While meeting with colleges, Brown has learned about various department and college needs. Brown notes that there have been some requests on the proposal's wording, such as having it in writing that students can take two WI classes if they want to, in replacement of a W class.

Do asks what this committee's minimum and maximum is for class size. Brown notes that this committee cannot formally negotiate at this time. Brown notes that the proposal states that the maximum is 18 students for a WI class, but if it is a deal-breaker, what is this committee willing to go up to? Do notes that it is not pedagogically sound to have more than 25 students in a writing class. Do echoes concerns of the workload falling on lecturers. Brown suggests that 24 students may be preferred. Wilkinson suggests that 22 students is a number she feels more comfortable with. However, she also prefers the proposal is implemented and is willing to negotiate.

Brown also notes that many colleges are concerned with the required word count of 6,500 per WI class in the proposal. If the word count changes, current writing-intensive classes would have to recertify. Do notes that if the limit is 5000 words, he would be more willing to have a higher-class cap. Ramirez notes that raising the word count was connected to the reduced class size. Ramirez also states that more writing is better. Wilkinson states that most WI classes exceed the 5,000-word count already. Stammeler notes that more writing is in the best interest of the student. Brown notes that so far, the requested amendments have been minimal. Brown notes that CEPC and the Academic Senate are faculty-run committees. However, the Deans' voices need to be heard, and their concerns are valid. Wilkinson notes that if CSULB funds a 30-student class as a 50-student class, this will encourage Deans and department chairs to not only offer WI classes but also create them. This deal is in effect at Chico State.

Testing Update

Baker notes that testing offered a special GPE for graduating students. At this time, 44 students registered for the exam and 18 students tested the morning before the meeting. This committee is thankful for testing.

GWAR Coordinator's report

Brown discusses the Chancellor's office letter stating the GWAR must be met using a 3-unit upper division writing class. The letter states that meeting the GWAR cannot add additional units not part of a degree. As CSULB currently offers portfolio classes depending on a student's score on the GWAR, our campus will need to remove them. With the current proposal, this college is already in the process of converting portfolio classes to W classes. However, the courses must be designated as suggested writing course from a department.

The biggest concern is when this mandate will be implemented. The letter states all students after 2023. Our campus is not currently planning on doing this at the time. Brown notes the immediate confusion with portfolio classes when the GWAR policy for graduate students was changed in the summer of 2022. Brown hopes this will be handled more gracefully. Stammeler echoes this concern. Brown also notes that if there are no portfolio classes, then there is no reason to keep

the GPE. Brown hopes this is not implemented until the new policy is approved to avoid unnecessary distress. The committee agrees.

GWAR Proposal Charter

The University Writing Center was created after the first attempt at a WAC program on this campus. The English department believes that the WAC could not be successful with a lack of resources and support. To prevent the writing center from the same fate the department wrote a Charter. The Charter briefly states the mission, job duties, budget, etc of the program. The Charter is an agreement of what is expected for the center to be successful. Wilkinson is in favor of starting this process. Brown hopes that the entire committee plays a part in writing the Charter. Wilkinson agrees to take the mission section, Do agrees to take the job duties, Brown states she will take the budget, and Ramirez agrees to take the advisory piece. During the next meeting, the committee will begin edits.

Old Business

WAC Proposal – Online Module Ideas were not discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment: 2:49 pm

Submitted by,

Alexandra Wilkinson