

MINUTES
GWAR Committee
PSY 320
1:30-3:00

Meeting Number 8
March 15th, 2019

In attendance: John Scenters-Zapico, Cynthia Pastrana, Jason Deutschman, John Hamilton, Annel Estrada, Eve Baker, Rebekha Abbuhl, Lori Brown, Lethia Cobbs, Mahdi Yoozbashizadeh

- Approval of agenda
 - Approved
- Minutes of meeting on March 1st, 2019
 - Approved with correction to attendance list
- Announcements
 - The GPE was held on 3/9 and the pilot on 3/8. Data on pilots and GPE forthcoming.
 - Raters liked the prompts that were piloted.
 - April 5 meeting will cancelled as it is during spring break. Next meeting on 4/19.
- Presentation of the College of Engineering writing proposal by Jason Deutschman and Mahdi Yoozbashizadeh
 - The committee was reminded that it is important to be informed on proposals regarding the fulfillment of campus-wide writing requirements.
 - Jason and Mahdi presented the College of Engineering proposal on writing in the disciplines. This proposal has been developed by engineering faculty, primarily Maryam Qudrat, who heads the writing center.
 - The proposal has writing being held over multiple courses, tied to the senior design courses. For most majors, it is a year-long process. The proposal has students write more than 5,000 words.
 - Maryam leads faculty development workshops, and would like to train a third to half of the engineering faculty on writing. She works with and trains graduate students from English.
 - The proposal is informed by industry feedback on the importance of writing and communication skills.
 - The way the engineering degree is structured, it is not possible to add more units and keep accreditation. It is now 129 units, which is in violation of the chancellor-mandated limit of 120 units.
 - Currently, the proposal is being discussed by engineering faculty. Maryam is working with departments to develop it and suit it to their needs.
 - Questions from the GWAR committee:
 - Who will train the English graduate students referenced in the proposal? The answer was that Maryam would be responsible for their training.
 - Will English graduate students provide writing instruction, or will they serve in more of a

support capacity? Jason answered that the students are there for support and it is not formal supplemental instruction. Sometimes the English graduate students may provide feedback, but the exact role they take is up to the faculty they are working with.

- What is the status of this proposal? It is still being discussed by engineering faculty, but the hope is to use it to fulfill any campus-wide writing requirement in the future.
- The committee suggested specifying more clearly in the document what the exact role of the faculty and English graduate students will be in the classes that are being used.
- The COE will inform the GEAR committee of any developments with the proposal.
- Test retaking policy
 - Currently students are not allowed to retake the GPE unless they receive permission from a GEAR advisor. It is not a GEAR committee matter.
 - A question was raised as to whether the GEAR committee should set criteria for test retakes, to help future GEAR advisors.
 - It was noted that the vast majority of students who request a retake are denied; the exceptions are those students who should have tested through BMAC (but didn't), or those who took the WPE a long time ago. The GEAR advisors noted that requests are handled on a case-by-case basis and that it would not be possible to set specific criteria, beyond saying "for serious and compelling reasons."
 - It was suggested that, given the rarity of requests that are granted and given the uncertainty surrounding the GPE's future, that the question be revisited in the future if it is decided that the GPE will continue.
- Adjournment

Submitted by,

Max Rosenkrantz

(These minutes were approved on 4/19/19.)