Minutes

GWAR Committee

1:30 – 3:00

Meeting Number 8

February 2, 2024

In attendance: Eve Baker, Nicollete Brant, Lori Brown, Jill De La Torre, Navdeep Dhillon, Tom Do, Megan Griffith-Pina, Sarvenaz Hatami, Lorenzo Gutierrez-Jarquin, Benjamin Perlman, Loretta Ramirez, Deepti Singh, Courtney Stammler, Katherin Toscano, Alexandra Wilkinson

Call to Order: 1:41 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Wilkinson moves to approve the agenda. Perlman seconds the motion, and it is approved unanimously.

Approval of meeting Minutes for December 15. 2023

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

Announcements

Brown notes that the meeting with Associate Deans has been changed to a meeting with the Provost Council, the Deans of every college, and the Associate Deans in charge of the curriculum. This meeting is scheduled for February 14th. CEPC will be meeting on February 28th to discuss the draft policy. Hopefully, URC will have numbers on the policy budget before that meeting.

Brown also met with AVP Kerry Johnson and discussed the Charter document that mimics the charter for the writing center.

Brown asks if any committee members have heard from the colleges they represent. However, no one has at this time.

Testing Update

Baker notes that the GPE will be held on February 9th and 10th. Online 1271 students will test and in person 458 students will test. Testing is waiting for final approval of the three topics for the prompts. Ramirez sent over prompts to Brown that have been approved by GPEAC.

GWAR Coordinator's report

CSU Fully Online Courses

Brown begins a discussion about the CSU fully online courses. This set of courses is a collaboration of courses from across the CSUs consisting of asynchronous courses. CSULB students can take courses from other campuses and receive credit for them on this campus.

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Brown discusses some student cases that the GWAR advisors have been receiving. Some students have been taking classes at other universities that are being labeled as meeting the GWAR on another campus. If it is a class meeting the GWAR on the other campus, students are requesting to make it a WI class here at CSULB. For one reason or another, the classes are not being accepted for transfer, or students are technically taking WI courses at another campus, but they do not meet the GWAR on the campus fully. For example, if a campus requires two classes to meet the GWAR. Also, some colleges and departments do not allow asynchronous classes to be taken for their degree. Therefore, if a student took a fully online course at another college, the department would not accept it for transfer to meet the major requirement. However, the CSULB campus could potentially accept it to meet the GWAR on our campus. This would usually not be an issue if a student fully meets the GWAR on another campus.

Gutierrez-Jarquin is concerned that some colleges are not accepting synchronous online courses. It seems unfair to the students and creates unnecessary roadblocks for the students. There are general education classes that students will take outside the majors, and they could potentially be taken online. Brant agrees that it can be a disservice to our students to put up barriers, but it is also a disservice to have students graduate without the required skills needed in their major. This could lead students to enter the workforce unprepared.

Hatami asks what GWAR's role is in deciding if the college should accept this class. Hatami asks if this policy of not accepting asynchronous online classes is being communicated to students or if the students do not follow instructions from their college. Hatami suggests leaving it up to departments to decide if it meets their specific requirements.

Griffith-Pina notes that CSULB Fully Online was an assembly bill to help students meet general education requirements. A general education course should transfer with no problems. However, GWAR has been removed from GE. Stammler notes that this is contributing to confusion among students. Students are also registering for classes without checking with their colleges/departments.

Singh notes that this confusion has happened before among students where a class might look like it is a writing class. Singh suggests adding a disclaimer to our website such as please check with your advisor before taking a class to meet the GWAR. Wilkinson agrees that a GWAR course enrolled in CSU fully online needs to put something in the description, such as if using this for another campus, please check with GWAR on your campus.

Wilkinson asks if the class the student is trying to substitute is also a WI on our campus? Or is it a random class not offered by CSULB? Wilkinson also asks if we accept the class as meeting the GWAR, would the student have to take the same class again to meet it in the major requirement? Stammler notes that the student is an aerospace engineering major and took an online music class. Brown notes that classes can be major requirements and GWAR requirements, and they

are not necessarily the same. Some classes are used by majors to meet both, but meeting one separately does not meet both. Stammler notes that students should be reaching out to departments before taking this class.

Stammler notes that the student currently being discussed is expected to graduate in 2025. The student contacted GWAR, stating that they took a WI class, but their academic records have not been updated. De La Torre states that the class is being used to fulfill an upper-division C1 requirement.

Brown notes that this committee does not want to tell departments what to do. This committee can only discuss the business of GWAR. Brown states that this issue will need more discussion at a later time. This committee will need to look at cases individually until a more substantial policy can be put in place.

Old Business

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

Adjournment: 3:03 p.m.

Submitted by,

Alexandra Wilkinson