

Minutes
Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Committee
Meeting 11
March 20, 2026
1:30pm-3:00pm

In attendance: Rebekha Abbuhl, Nicollette Brant, Lori Brown, Lisa Fascia, Katherine Guerra, Loretta Ramirez, Henry O'Lawrence, Deepti Singh, Jayden Sandstorm, Maiyoua Vang, Alexandra Wilkinson

Call to Order: 1:34 PM

Approval of Agenda

Abbuhl moves to approve, and Brown seconds the motion. The agenda is approved.

Approval of Minutes (March 6, 2026)

O'Lawrence moves to approve the minutes, and Abbuhl seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

GWAR Coordinator's Report

The coordinator informs the committee that the campus officially has a new GWAR policy and the committee has a new charge signed by the campus president. Furthermore, although the support online modules did not make it into the official policy, this committee will have the opportunity to work with ATS to assist with the development of them. In future meetings, the committee will need to discuss what to include in them.

New Business

Review GWAR Committee Policy (approved by Academic Senate, Feb. 19, 2026)

The chair of the committee brings up the new policy for review. The full policy is available in Canvas. A discussion occurs about how the committee will interpret the policy.

A question that arose throughout the discussion included whether the objectives are measurable. The policy's objectives will need to be assessed in some way. Some committee members are concerned about how to interpret the objectives because some are broad, or the word choice for some objectives is confusing.

Additional areas of discussion include what the GWAR program is referring to in the policy. The committee believes that this was left over from the original wording of the draft policy and most likely just includes the two writing classes students need to graduate. It may also be that GWAR is an academic program.

The policy discusses undergraduate writing in section 2.3.1, including the mention of freshmen composition. The committee has questions about the freshman composition class falling under the GEAR committee, and if so, it will require further collaboration with the departments teaching composition. The committee does not want to impose on the already established freshman composition classes.

Another area of confusion in the policy overall is that much of the bridging language originally from the policy draft GEAR submitted remained, but without the two additional writing courses to support students from freshman year to the GEAR class. We essentially have supportive language, but not structure in the policy. An ambitious charge exists, but the committee may not feel fully supported in accomplishing it.

Another frequently discussed item is the major/discipline-specific language used throughout the policy, including sections 2.3.2, 2.4.1, and 2.5. As the major/discipline-specific bridging writing class was removed from the policy, the committee has questions about what this means for the policy.

A discussion also occurs about section 2.3.5, which mentions CSULB – Fully Online classes. However, the section states that students need to be matriculated at the university where they are taking the writing class. This essentially eliminates the ability for students to use CSULB Fully Online to meet the GEAR if they are not attending that college at the time of taking that class. This is the same protocol the committee already had before the new policy.

Section 2.3.6 will also be challenging in reference to the creation of the assessment for the course review of GEAR classes. The committee will need to develop assessment tools.

It is also briefly noted that this committee may need to split into additional committees to handle the new tasks assigned to GEARC, similar to the GEGC.

Some committee members express that some policy components are beyond the scope of our committee. This will need further discussion, particularly with concerns about freshman composition and discipline-specific related language. It may be possible to have further conversations with the Senate to assist in interpreting the policy and committee charges.

The committee ends the discussion with point 3. This committee will need to define the evidence of writing courses that the department will be responsible for collecting.

Ramirez thanks the committee and dismisses them.

Reminders

Next Meeting: April 17, 1:30–3:00 PM

Remaining Meetings: Apr. 17, May 1

Adjournment: 2:52 pm

Submitted by,

Alexandra Wilkinson