DATE: August 15, 2020

TO: Danny Paskin, Chair
               Curriculum and Educational Policies Council

               Jessica Pandya, Chair
               Academic Senate

FROM: Lori Brown, Chair
               Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) Committee

SUBJECT: GWAR Committee Report for 2019-2020

The Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) Committee convened on
September 6, 2019 and elected the following committee officers:

    Lori Brown, Chair
    Joseph Aubele , Vice Chair
    Max Rosenkrantz, Secretary

The committee met on the first and third Fridays of each month from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

GWAR Committee Membership

The following individuals served on the GWAR committee during the 2019-2020 school year:

- Joseph Aubele (Library)
- Lori Brown (Information Systems)
- Lethia Cobbs (BMAC)
- Jason Deutschman (Coordinator of Academic Advising, College of Engineering)
- Noah Golden (Teacher Education)
- John Hamilton (AVP University Access and Retention, Interim Testing office director)
- Savenaz Hatami (Linguistics)
- Kerry Johnson (AVP Undergraduate Studies)
- Eugenia Kim (Director, Center for International Education)
- Eileen Klink (English)
- Elizabeth Lindau (Music)
- Kristina Lovato (Social Work)
- Tina Matuchniak (Director, University Writing Center)
- Henry O'Lawrence (CEPC, Health Care Administration)
- Helen Rodriguez, Student (ASI)
- Max Rosenkrantz (Philosophy)
- Shabnam Sodagari (Electrical Engineering)

The major activities of the GWAR Committee will be summarized in the following sections.

Review of GWAR and GPE Processes

The GWARC began a review of the GWAR in fall semester that continued until the end of spring. As a new Chair and Coordinator with several new committee members, Brown began with inquiries into the GWAR processes with those tasked with the execution of policy and current practice. The goals being clarity of current practices and outcomes and identifying areas for adjustment and/or improvement. Guests and committee members from Testing and Evaluation, University Writing Center, Academic Technology Services, AVP of Undergraduate Studies, GWAR Advisors, and State Academic Senate were invited to share with the committee. The diversity of the committee's expertise was also leveraged. The committee discussed the value of current practices and the value of examining potential paths for improvement in student outcomes and work flow.

More specifically, the GPE was examined and discussed as to its implementation and efficacy. It was determined that an increased level of statistical analysis of the GPE would be helpful. The committee decided that having Data Fellows for GWAR would be beneficial. Raw data from GPE exams would be sent to Undergraduate Studies for statistical analysis.

On February 21 (pre-COVID and virtual campus), the GWARC began discussion of moving the GPE online. Security concerns were of utmost importance.

COVID and the GWAR

Due to the pandemic and campus shutdown, the April and Summer GPEs were postponed and eventually cancelled. The committee evaluated several scenarios for moving the GWAR forward, voted, and recommended a one-semester pause of the GPE (fall 2020) and the transition to an online GPE for spring 2021. Academic Technology Services was brought in along with Testing and Evaluation to inform the decision. The GWAR Coordinator, AVP of Undergraduate Studies, Enrollment Services, GWAR Advisors, Major advisors throughout campus, and the Testing Office were tasked with

(1) ensuring the imminent graduations of students impacted by the GPE cancellations were not delayed due to GWAR.
(2)   executing the waivers of the GPE for fall 2020.
(3) messaging the ongoing changes and guidelines to various advising and student groups.
(4) creating a secure and effective online GPE test capable of piloting in fall 2020.

GWAR Coordinator's report

The GWAR Coordinator regularly reported to the committee. The GWAR Coordinator served as a liaison between the GWARC and the campus administration, Enrollment Services, Testing and Evaluation, Academic Technology Services and other groups involved with GWAR review and the COVID response. The GWAR Coordinator also presented special circumstances waivers to the committee.

GPE Advisory Committee Chair's report

The GPE Advisory Committee chair regularly presented data on the GPE as part of that committee's efforts to monitor the reliability and validity of the test. In addition, the GPE Advisory committee created new prompts for the GPE test, piloted those prompts, and examined the results of those pilots in order to make recommendations concerning prompt use to the testing office.