**WAC Committee Meeting
Monday, April 17, 2017 10:00-12:00, GS 214A**

**Present:** Allen Smith, Julia Mason, Fred Bloetscher, Rachel Luria, Jeff Galin, Julianne Zvolensky **Absent:** Daniel Murtaugh, Joe Su

**Agenda items:**

1. WAC program self-study, 2017-2018
2. Re-constituting the WAC Committee – proposed members
3. WAC re-certification of syllabi – updates and feedback
4. WAC assessment interface updates – the reporting functions
5. Writing Enriched Curriculum (WEC) – updates on Sociology

**1. WAC program self-study, 2017-2018**

The major project for fall 2017 – spring 2018 will be to engage in a self-study about the growth, development, and impact of FAU’s WAC program in the last 10 years. This project was discussed at length at the last meeting [February 2017].

A first step in conducting this self-study will be to revisit our mission plan/statement and revisit the goals of our WAC program.

The self-study will be comprehensive; in the fall, we anticipate 2-3 meetings dedicated to these discussions and reflections. **Jeff Galin (JG)** and **Julianne Zvolensky (JZ)** will conduct further research as necessary to review our own program as well as to investigate peer institutions.

**2. Re-constituting the WAC Committee – proposed members**

The more representative the stakeholder groups for these self-study conversations the better. As we reconstitute the WAC Committee, ideally the committee would be comprised of at least one person from each college. Over the years, we have lost this kind of representation due to various reasons. Some current members would like to remain on the committee **(Fred Bloetscher, Julia Mason, Allen Smith)**; **Dan Murtaugh** will remain but plans to retire after the next academic year; **Rachel Luria** will confirm her plans after service assignments are distributed in the Honors College, but someone else from the Honors College would take her place; **Joe Su** would like to cycle off the committee.

**JG** updated the committee about the call for new members sent to college deans March 23. **The committee discussed candidates with whom they were familiar as well as the implications of having multiple committee members from the same college or committee members who were not tenure-track faculty.** **JG** will follow up with some of the candidates to confirm interest and send the proposed list of new committee members to the UUPC for affirmation at the next meeting on Monday, May 1.

**Update:** The list sent to UUPC for new WAC committee members is as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **College** | **Rank** |
| **Committee member nominees** |  |  |
| Haky, Jerry | Sciences | Associate Professor |
| Tessel, Carol | Education | Assistant Professor |
| Granger, Jamie | Business | Senior Instructor |
| D'Avolio, Deborah | Nursing | Associate Professor |
| Murtaugh, Dan (Chair) | Arts and Letters | Full Professor |
| Bloetscher, Fred | Engineering | Associate Professor |
| Mason, Julia | Arts and Letters | Associate Professor |
| Luria, Rachel (may change) | Honors | Associate Professor |
| Smith, Allen | Business | Associate Professor |
| Chewning, Gail | Social Inquiry/Design | Associate Professor |

**JM** and **AS** do not see a problem with having multiple people from one college on the committee since WAC is not biased to any one college not tied to any university awards or competitive funding lines. **RL** pointed outthat the only concern would be if there were two members from the same department. But ultimately everyone present acknowledged how difficult it is to solicit willing members, so if folks are from the same department, that could be okay.

**The committee discussed how large the WAC committee should grow**. **JG** pointed out that the more members there are, the harder it is to meet but the easier it is to get a quorum. For the purposes of the self-study, it is important to have substantial representation across colleges and disciplines. **JM** proposed that if necessary and if there were multiple members from the same college or department, then that college or department would only get one vote on voting items. **The committee also discussed the matter of involving a mixture of faculty levels in some discussions, allowing for input and some minor service without a big commitment from junior faculty.**

**3. WAC re-certification of syllabi – updates and feedback
JCZ** reported that all the syllabi reviews have been returned for this year’s re-certification. She will record all the feedback and follow up with faculty and department chairs as necessary. **The committee discussed the review process.** Some syllabi were less standardized than others, making them more difficult to review. Part of next year’s self-study may be to revisit some of the WAC syllabi criteria to make them more clear for both faculty and the committee reviewers.

**4. WAC assessment interface updates – the reporting functions
JG and JCZ** presented some of the latest functions of the new WAC assessment interface. Namely, the Reporting section will now sort the assessment rating results in customized groupings that can be presented to departments. The committee discussed whether individual faculty would be interested in requesting his/her individual graphed results by themselves, in comparison to similar anonymous sections, or in relation to a Weighted Mean line. This would be information only provided to individual faculty at their request; it would not be shared with department chairs. **JG** wants to report assessment data to departments as soon as possible, likely over the summer after this year’s rating is finished so that he can present each department with two years’ worth of data. Ultimately, WAC would like departments to set their own benchmarks for the traits that are most valuable to their disciplines and then track these benchmarks over time. The ability to set these kinds of benchmarks will be part of future updates to the new interface.

**5. Writing Enriched Curriculum (WEC) – updates on Sociology**

Sociology has just completed their M4 meeting, planning for implementation. Their final writing plan is due before the end of May. The WAC committee will then need to review and either approve/approve with revision/not approve the plan. We appreciate your help in this process since the review will be during the summer term.