**Fall 2015 WAC Committee meeting
Friday, October 23, 2015
1:00 – 3:00 p.m. GS 214 B**

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

**1. Update on Ocean & Mechanical Engineering WEC initiative**

There are three main updates in this area:

1. An additional $20K (one time?) has been budgeted for this project. **JG** reminded the committee that when OME submits their WEC plan for review at the end of the spring semester/early in summer, whatever monetary support they seek in their plan will be paid out of *next year’s* budget. There was too much rush and too many complications in trying to get the support money transferred by the end of the fiscal year with LLCL.

2. If the university decides to pursue this initiative, the next scale up of the program will be a large one due to the addition of a third department’s initial writing plan, a second department’s implementation phase, and the first revision of LLCL’s plan. WAC/WEC will not be able to do this without university backing. **JG plans to approach upper administration with a WEC proposal this summer after OME completes its writing plan. The committee suggested that JG invite the LLCL and OME department chairs to come to this summer meeting.** There is possibility that the Sociology department is interested in being a third pilot.

3. OME’s “M1” meeting will be immediately after this WAC meeting. **JG** briefly showed the committee some of the departmental stakeholder data that will be presented.

**2. National Day on Writing/Student Writing Expo**

These two events took place earlier this week on Tuesday. **JG** reminded the committee of the Expo goals to recognize student publications in the last academic year, Fall 2014 – Summer 2015. About 18 students submitted demographics on about 25 pieces published either on or off campus. All of them were invited to the reception, and about 30 people in total were present. Next year, we will try to advertise sooner to get more submissions. We’ll also look into what can be done to increase incentives for students (gift card lottery?). Potentially we will also see what kinds of partnerships could be made for the event with the Jupiter and Davie campuses.

**3. Honors College update**

The Honors College is finishing a transition with Common Core curriculum. There are no WAC updates or concerns at this time.

**4. Re-certification update**

Phase 1 of the re-certification process is done with a couple of exceptions (syllabus collection). **JCZ** will begin Phase 2 in the next week or so. (Phase 2 is sending syllabi for re-review and approval. As per the WAC meeting conversation in September, she will do this in larger batches since that is more preferred among the committee.)

**5. Annual assessment process**

**JCZ** will be sending reminders to selected faculty and initial instruction letters to the students next week.
**JG** explained that early in November, a third party vendor will start working on building a new website to house the assessment process since the FAU division and staff originally involved can no longer support the project.

The WAC assessment data from last year’s review had several mistakes in it but it has been corrected. **JG** will begin contacting departments to review their results and set benchmarks in the coming weeks.

**6. WAC Workshops**

Aside from the semesterly WAC training workshops, we have not held any workshops in a few semesters because other projects have taken priority. Previous workshop topics have involved teaching with technology, Blackboard, responding to student writing, writing in the sciences, and grant writing. The concern is that the WAC program risks becoming “invisible.” The committee discussed ways to enhance visibility. Some ideas included having a poster/display at the university Research day/poster sessions of all the publication information that was collected as part of the Student Writing Expo; to have a reading event of some of the student publications.

**7. Growing the WAC committee/Establishing an advisory board**

Establishing an external advisory board (an idea raised a few semesters ago) was revisited in terms of increasing WAC visibility. This has not been pursued to date, but perhaps is an option for if WEC goes university-wide. The committee also discussed whether the WAC committee will continue to handle WEC reviews if the program gets instituted or if a separate WEC committee should be established. For now, the consensus was to try to solicit more WAC committee members now and to keep with one committee for both WAC and WEC until WEC is established. At that time, we can use the university-wide conversation about WEC as an opportunity to recruit more committee members to serve on the WAC committee, or if it’s to be two committees, to recruit members for a WEC committee. Ultimately, the goal is try to pursue a unified approach to writing.

**8. Review of two proposed syllabi**

The committee reviewed the following syllabi:

**Honors College: LIT 4383 Honors Women in Literature: American Women’s Poetry**

**Status: approved**

**Nursing: NSP 1195 Being Cared For: Reflections from the Other Side of the Bed (ENC 1102 replacement; was approved with recommendation by the Writing Committee)**

**Status: approved with recommendation**

The recommendation was in regards to the kinds of reading assignments involved -- the committee asked for nursing to consider adding some more scholarly reading assignments. Most of the required texts were textbooks. It also had *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. The recommendation was to include some scholarly papers on the kinds of issues that the *Henrietta* book raised.