

Academic Senate .1000 E. Victoria . Carson, CA 90747 . WH-A420 . (310) 243-3312

**University Writing Committee End of Year Report to the Academic Senate (AY 20-21)**

**Charge**

The University Writing Committee (UWC), a standing committee of the Academic Senate, seeks

to build and maintain a robust culture of writing at CSUDH that supports and advances the

mission, vision, and goals of the University while it positively impacts students, faculty, and

staff. The UWC provides vision, leadership, and expertise aimed at building a culture of writing

within the University, and serves as a recommending body to the Academic Senate on matters

related to university-wide writing policies and practices. In addition, the UWC offers

consultation and recommendations to University entities tasked with the oversight, development,

and review of: student writing requirements and standards; student learning outcomes

assessment; and program assessment related to student writing.

**Membership**

• Siskanna Naynaha: Chair and Coordinator of the Writing Across the Curriculum Program

• Mara Lee Grayson, Interim Director of the Writing Center

• Rosa Heckenberg: Director of the Toro Learning and Testing Center

• Randy Cauthen: Director of the Composition Program

• Sumino Otsuji: Coordinator of the Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement

• Salvatore Russo: Chair, or designee, of the General Education Committee

• Salvatore Russo: Chair, or designee, of the Educational Policies Committee of the

Academic Senate

• Matthew Mutchler: Chair, or designee, of the University Student Learning Outcomes

and Assessment Committee

• Adriean Mancillas: Chair of the Graduate Council

• Kimberly Costino: Dean of Undergraduate Studies

• Jennifer Brandt: Arts and Humanities representative (excluding English Department faculty)

• Jenn Macy: Business Administration and Public Policy representative

• Sarah Underwood: Health, Human Services and Nursing representative

• Kathryn Theiss: Natural and Behavioral Sciences representative

• Helen Oesterheld: English Department representative

• Christian Jackson: ASI undergraduate student representative

• Sarah Wheeler: ASI graduate student representative

**Meetings**

Fall 2020: Spring 2021:

• 9/16/2020 • 2/1/2021

• 10/5/2020 • 2/17/2021

• 10/21/2020 • 3/1/2021

• 11/2/2020 • 3/17/2021

• 11/18/2020 • 4/5/2021

• 12/7/2020 • 4/21/2021

• 5/3/2021

**Topics of Discussion**

UWC met 13 times during the 2020-2021 academic year and discussed a variety of topics including revision of the campus GWAR policy, assessment of writing on campus, and the development of new GWAR-certifying courses across the curriculum.

The committee’s work in fall 2020 primarily focused on the finalization and presentation of the revised GWAR policy to the academic senate. After a year of broad-based, campus-wide consultation (AY 2018-2019), the UWC had finalized revision of the campus GWAR policy in preparation for recommendation to EPC in consultation with Senate Exec and EPC. In the first half of the spring 2020 term, the committee received further input from EPC and Exec on its final version of the GWAR policy, EPC 20-04, and brought it before the Senate in March for a first reading. The resolution was tabled in April, just before the second reading and vote, because of the urgent need to address the temporary suspension of the GWAR due to COVID-19, as mandated by the Chancellor’s Office. As a result, the committee returned to the drawing board to draft a GWAR policy that would align with the additional mandate that all CSUs move toward a course-certifying model—and eliminate high stakes, timed testing as a means of GWAR certification—by the fall of 2021.

The UWC also convened a summer 2020 working group (supported by the WAC budget) that consisted of Siskanna Naynaha (lead), Jen Stacy, Jennifer Brandt, Kathryn Theiss, Sumino Otsuji, and Mara Lee Grayson. The working group focused on development of GWAR-certifying courses that aligned with the new policy mandates so the committee could provide models and support for faculty and departments that wished to develop new GWAR-certifying courses during the 2020-2021 academic year.

In September and October of 2020, the UWC submitted the newly revised GWAR policy to Senate Exec and EPC for review and prepared to bring the matter before the senate on October 14, 2020. AA2020-08 was approved and will become effective fall 2021. In November and December 2020, the UWC focused on revising the curriculum review course modification form, including the development of a supplemental form—the GWAR SLO to PLO matrix—to aid in review of GWAR course proposals. The committee further worked on developing a process for the committee’s review of proposed GWAR-certifying courses.

The forms and process were finalized at the beginning of spring semester 2021. For the remainder of the semester, the UWC focused on the timely review of newly proposed GWAR courses. The committee reviewed 8 proposals over the course of the semester, ultimately approving 4 GWAR-certifying course proposals: WMS 490; LBS 370; ENG 490; and ENG 350.

Additional topics discussed by the UWC in AY 2020-2021 include: developing a comprehensive campus-wide assessment plan for writing that includes GWAR, GE, and first-year composition; moving the campus toward a restorative justice model for understanding and addressing “plagiarism”; developing an online professional development module for GWAR instructors; and implementation of the new GWAR policy beginning fall 2021.