2018-2019
Writing Across the Curriculum Committee Report

Chair: Michelle LaFrance (Chair, CHSS)


Consultants to the Committee: Greg Robinson (CVPA), Peggy Brouse (Systems Engineering), Susan Lawrence (Director, Writing Center), Karyn Mallet (INTO Mason), Esther Namubiro (INTO Mason), Larry Rockwood (Biology), Ellen Rodgers (CEHD), Sarah Baker (English – NVWP), Jen Stevens (University Libraries), Bethany Usher (Undergraduate Education), Laura Lukes (Stearns Center), Jessie Matthews (Composition), Lisa Lister (Composition), Courtney Wooten (Composition)

WAC Program:
Director: Michelle LaFrance
Assistant Director: Thomas Polk
Graduate Assistant: Kelly Purcell

The Committee has met 5 times (to date) during the 2018-2019 academic year; an additional meeting is scheduled for May. The Committee’s charge includes: advising the director of Writing Across the Curriculum, approval of new writing-intensive (WI) courses, regular review of WI course syllabi, and assisting with activities and events related to Writing Across the Curriculum.

2018-2019 Committee Actions:

- Approved new WI Courses: BIO 338, RHBS 455, STAT 489, PHYS 410, ECON 485, ELED 459
  - Courses with Provisional Approval: ECON 481, ECED 411, BENG 360
- Reviewed WI course assessment data from Office of Undergraduate Education
- Consulted on celebration for the National Day on Writing in October 2018
  - Consulted on WAC Program Fall for the Book panel

WAC Program Activities (Discussed w/ WAC Committee Members):

- Initiated a joint project on academic integrity and writing practices with the Office of Academic Integrity
- Conducted a review of WI course syllabi to ensure that courses align with university requirements
• Began conversations with Office of Undergraduate Education to conduct a thorough assessment of writing assignments from upper-level courses
• Collaborated with ADVANCE Initiative and Northern Virginia Community College faculty to streamline pathways for transfer students into Mason’s writing curriculum and majors
• Collaborated with Stearns Center to host Faculty Writing Retreats in January and May (upcoming); also facilitated weekly Faculty Write-Ins in fall and spring semesters
• Collaborated with Office of Undergraduate Education on WI course assessment
• Continued the RE/View project focusing on assignment design (analyzing data)
• Produced report on the teaching collaborations between WI faculty and subject librarians
• Produced report on the major constraints to teaching writing as perceived by writing-intensive faculty
• Collaborated with cross-campus partners to celebrate the National Day on Writing in October 2018 and Fall for the Book 2018
• Continued the *Writer’s of Mason* profile series to highlight the variety of writing that happens on campus
• Continued progress on the program’s faculty development blog, *The Writing Campus*, with recurring posts about teaching writing and program news
• Continued the WAC program social media presence by maintaining a Facebook page and Twitter feed

Many thanks to Thomas Polk for compiling this report.