2019-2020
Writing Across the Curriculum Committee Report

Chair: Doug Eyman (Chair, CHSS)


Consultants to the Committee: Greg Robinson (CVPA), Peggy Brouse (Systems Engineering), Susan Lawrence (Writing Center), Karyn Kessler (INTO Mason), Esther Namubiru (INTO Mason), Larry Rockwood (Biology), Michelle LaFrance (CHSS), Ellen Rodgers (CEHD), Jen Stevens (University Libraries), Bethany Usher (Undergraduate Education), Laura Lukes (Stearns Center), Jessie Matthews (Composition), Lisa Lister (Composition), Courtney Wooten (Composition), Shelley Reid (Stearns Center), Jacquelyn Brown (B-School)

WAC Program: 
Acting Director: Thomas Polk
Graduate Assistants: Kelley Purtell (fall 2019) and John Walter (spring 2020)

The Committee met 6 times during the 2019-2020 academic year; the last two of these meetings occurred virtually due to the campus closure for the COVID-19 epidemic. The Committee’s charge includes: developing WI course policy and guidance, advising the director of Writing Across the Curriculum, approving new writing-intensive (WI) courses, reviewing WI course syllabi, and assisting with activities and events related to Writing Across the Curriculum.

2019-2020 Committee Actions:
• Approved 8 new WI Courses: FNAN/ACCT 493, BENG 360, EDSE 452, FNAN 477, KORE 370, ECON 395, MIS 431, OSCM 456
• Approved a Statement on the Recertification of WI Courses
• Discussed revision of WI review process and policy
• Reviewed policy on collaborative writing
• Discussed policy on or guidance for what counts as writing
• Discussed syllabus review data of WI courses
• Reviewed writing assignment assessment data from Mason Core courses

WAC Program Activities (Discussed w/ WAC Committee Members):
• Consulted with Office of Undergraduate Education and Stearns Center on revisioning the WAC Program as an integrated, project-based program
• Initiated revision of WAC website to articulate new vision of WAC program
• Collaborated with the Composition Program, the Writing Center, and the Stearns Center on Writing@Mason project, funded by a Curriculum Impact grant
• Produced report on the presence and characteristics of writing in Mason Core
• Hosted a series of workshops on teaching with writing in any course
• Developed a graduate student peer network for teaching with writing
• Analyzed a review of WI course syllabi to ensure that courses align with university requirements
• Requested course revisions from departments with WI courses that failed to meet essential WI criteria (forthcoming)
• Continued conversations with Office of Undergraduate Education to conduct assessment of WI courses
• Collaborated with Stearns Center to host Faculty Writing Retreats in January and virtual writing support in summer (upcoming); also facilitated weekly Faculty Write-Ins in fall and spring semesters; launched new faculty writing groups
• Continued the RE/View project focusing on assignment design (analyzing data)
• 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.