



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS

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 19-20)

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
- 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
- Katy Pinto: Chair of the Graduate Council
- Kimberly Costino: Dean of Undergraduate Studies
- Jennifer Brandt: Arts and Humanities representative (excluding English Department faculty)
- Jenn Sumner: Business Administration and Public Policy representative
- Jennifer Stacey: Education 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

Standing Guests

- Mara Lee Grayson, Interim Director of the Writing Center
- Maruth Figueroa: Associate Vice President of Retention and Advising

Meetings

Fall 2019:

- 9/16/2019
- 10/7/2019
- 10/21/2019
- 11/4/19

Spring 2020:

- 3/2/2020
- 4/8/2020
- 4/20/2020
- 5/6/20

Topics of Discussion

UWC met 8 times during the 2019-2020 academic year and discussed a variety of topics including revision of the campus Writing Intensive course policy, revised membership of the UWC, and the opening and scaling of the new university Writing Center.

The committee's work in fall 2019 primarily focused on GWAR. After a year of broad-based, campus-wide consultation (AY 2018-2019), in September and October of 2019 the UWC finalized revision of the campus GWAR policy in preparation for recommendation to EPC in consultation with Senate Exec and EPC. In November, Senate Exec and EPC reviewed the revised GWAR-policy and the UWC deliberated further and prepared to bring the matter before the Senate. In November and December 2019, the UWC focused on developing a new GWAR Coordinator position description and a call for applicants for the position, assembling a hiring committee, reviewing applications, conducting interviews, and finally hiring a new campus GWAR Coordinator prior to the end of the fall semester.

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.

The committee spent six weeks of the spring 2020 term deliberating and consulting widely to develop a policy that would temporarily suspend the GWAR for those students who have not yet met the requirement and are also graduating in a term where in-person testing is prohibited. The resolution, EPC 20-10, was passed at the last Senate meeting by a large margin and Academic Affairs is in the process of formalizing a policy.

In the 2020-21 academic year, the UWC will revise the tabled GWAR policy revision to reflect the CO's directive that all campuses develop GWAR-certifying courses to replace timed writing exams by Fall 2021. This work will be complete by the UWC's second meeting of the fall 2020 semester.

The UWC will also continue strategizing revision of the CSUDH Writing Intensive course policy in light of the campus-wide input garnered by the UWC survey. Chair Siskanna Naynaha will use the committee's plan to develop an initial draft of a new WI policy over the summer, and the UWC will begin review and revision of the draft at the first committee meeting of AY 2019-2020. Following that, the UWC will present the revised policy as a formal recommendation to the Educational Policy Committee of the Academic Senate.

Additional topics discussed by the UWC in AY 2019-2020 include: the opening and scaling of the new university Writing Center; student writing support and related needs across campus; Writing Center outreach to departments, programs, and units across campus; and coordination among writing support programs (including the TLTC, PEGS, and the English composition program); consultation with Academic Affairs and Advising on the hiring of a Writing Center Director; the future proposal and approval process for both Writing Intensive and GWAR-certifying courses at CSUDH; and establishing a subcommittee to prepare the campus to respond to the Chancellor's Office directive on GWAR and the passed Senate resolution on GWAR in response to the coronavirus pandemic.