

TO: Charlie McLaughlin, Chair of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC)
FROM: Mike Michaud, Chair of Writing Board (WB)
DATE: 3/20/15
SUBJECT: Report on Writing Board Activity (Feb/Mar)

Work of the Writing Board

The Writing Board met for the first time during the spring term and discussed/analyzed the feedback from the 2015 Adjunct Dinner and Faculty Development Workshop, held in January. We reflected on the success of our speaker and the afternoon panels and began to brainstorm ideas for next year's event. We will meet again in March and April to begin planning next year's FDW.

Work of the Writing Board Chair

A few items of note:

1. Professional Development!

I would like to announce several professional development opportunities that I am offering in coordination with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning this spring:

What's Blackboard Good For??? Teaching Writing!—Tuesday, March 24, 12:30-2:00pm.

This session will focus on using Blackboard to facilitate low- and high-stakes writing instruction. Facilitated by Carolyn Obel-Omia (Elementary Ed) and Mike Michaud (English, Writing Board).

What We Talk About When We Talk About Student Writing—Tuesday, April 14, 12:30-2:00pm.

What DO faculty talk about when they talk about student writing? Is it all griping? Is any of it productive? And how do these water-cooler and hallway conversations shape our collective understanding of students, their writing, and the purposes for assigning writing in the first place? Facilitated by Carol Cummings (Health and Phys Ed) and Mike Michaud (English, Writing Board).

The “How To” of Teaching Peer Review, Or, What Do You Do When You Put Students into Small Groups to Discuss Their Writing? Friday, April 17, 9:00am-noon.

Peer review is one of the most effective ways to help students produce better writing — and it’s not just meant for writing courses. This is a three-part series in one morning! Topics include imagining peer writing groups as part of your practice and faculty and student training for peer review. Please RSVP for this session to fctl@ric.edu. Facilitated by Mike Michaud (English, Chair of the Writing Board).

2. Our annual **Panel Presentation** for the participants in the 2014/2015 Summer Seminar for Teaching Writing (SSTW) will be held on **April 8, 2015 from 12:30-2pm in the Reinhardt Room** of Adams Library. Faculty who will be sharing their experiences with the SSTW are:

- Britt, Deborah
- Christiansen, Erik
- Haser-Lafond, Jeanne
- Parsons, Michael
- Battle, Stefan
- Schmeling, Thomas
- Holtzman, Elizabeth
- Bohlinger, Vincent
- Morenon, Pierre

3. I am pleased to announce that full funding has been secured for the 2015/2016 SSTW and that our in-coming class is now “full.” We look forward to another great year of work with faculty across the disciplines in the SSTW.

4. I have initiated a first, for me, and that is a collaboration on a scholarly article for publication. It has been my hope to work with faculty in the disciplines to contribute to the scholarly conversation about Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC). Erik Christianson (History) and I are moving forward with an article on low-stakes writing.

5. I have submitted a short vignette on my experience as a WAC campus leader to a book collection on WAC theory and practice. It is my hope that this effort will be a first step towards getting more involved with our regional WAC organization, the Northeast Writing Across the Curriculum Consortium (NEWACC).