

TO: Sue Abbotson, Chair of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC)
FROM: Mike Michaud, Chair of Writing Board (WB)
DATE: 10/19/18
SUBJECT: Report on WB Activity (Sept/Oct)

Work of the Writing Board

The Writing Board had a busy fall semester hosting its annual First Pages event and planning for the Faculty Development Workshop (1/16/19). We're excited to welcome Dr. Barbara D'Angelo as our speaker (recruitment poster [here](#) and as an appendix). Dr. D'Angelo will share a new approach to the process of teaching the research paper/report. As of this writing, 68 full and part-time faculty members have registered to attend. In the month ahead we will continue to work to recruit faculty to attend this signature professional development event of the year.

Work of the Writing Board Chair

SSTW

While the Summer Seminar for Teaching Writing (SSTW) is primarily focused on the week of professional development that we hold each May, there is ongoing work during the academic year, particularly during the fall term. I meet with each participant for a one-on-one conference to discuss how things are going implementing new practices and strategies for writing pedagogy. The group meets twice to maintain cohesiveness and to offer support.

Professional Development

This fall I teamed up with the FCTL again to offer the online mini-course, The How-To-of-Peer Review. The course ran for one week in November and is facilitated entirely online. Twelve full and part-time faculty members participated and we had a week of engaging discussion about the use of peer review to teach writing in the disciplines. I just logged in to confirm the number of participants and was interested to find that three participants logged into the course well after it had ended, for reasons we can only imagine but, I hope, because they found the material useful. In the spring, I will offer this course again and produce and edit video for a second online mini-course, The How-To-of-Good-Writing-Assignments. I'm excited to get started on this work.

WID Visibility Project

This year I have been appointed WID Coordinator to assist departments in creating greater visibility among their faculty and students about their departmental WID plans. We've asked departments to work on three tasks: create a WID webpage link on their departmental webpage, create a syllabus statement that will go on ALL WID courses they teach, and update their RhodeMap(s) to indicate which courses satisfy WID. Only the first item really requires some time as it necessitates the creation of new content that departments must draft and submit.

To date I've met with a number of department/programs chairs and representatives and many are moving along. Many more have not returned my emails. One department (Sociology) has met our suggested goal of completing the webpage element of the initiative by the end of the fall semester. I have included a copy of the answers they have provided to the questions we asked as an appendix to this report (or you can view it [here](#)). This will be helpful as a model as I continue to work with departments/programs during the spring term. I've also included, as an appendix to this report, a spreadsheet which documents my process of communicating with departments/programs on this initiative (available [here](#)). As you will see, there is more work to do. I will resume reaching out when we return in January.

Other Work Worth Mentioning

- Ongoing collaboration with graduate nursing faculty regarding their research and writing graduate level course (next meeting: 1/15/19)
- I have completed my first semester team-teaching Social Work's graduate professional writing course. I hope to teach this course again, perhaps next fall. Working with Chris Lambert, my colleague from Social Work, was terrific. The course was not. We plan to follow up with the MSW faculty to offer a report and assessment of our experience early in the new year
- I'm pleased to announce that I've been accepted to attend the 2019 Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Summer Institute at the University of Denver. I await word to hear if this travel will be funded by the college.
- The WB would like to find a way to get involved with the annual CRCA showcase, a task I hope we will discuss at our first meeting in January

Thank you for the chance to share these developments and for your ongoing support of the work of the RIC Writing Board.