

MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMPETENCY SUBCOMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO
5200 North Barton, M/S UL 34
Fresno, California 93740-8014

Office of the Academic Senate
Ext. 8-2743

May 7, 2024
11am-12pm

Zoom: <https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/2984108197>

Attending: Jacquelin Curry, Sarah McDaniel, Lalita Oka, Natalie Munoz, Nkenna Owuzuruoha,
Juliet Wahleithner

Absent: Aric Mine, Bernadette Muscat (ex-officio)

Resources:

- [Committee Charge](#)
- [W-Course Requirements](#)
- [W-Course Resource Folder](#)

Agenda:

- Welcome
 - Review & Approval of minutes from [April 2, 2024](#)
 - Moved: Lalita Oka
 - Second: Jacqui Curry
 - Approval of Agenda
 - Moved: Jacqui Curry
 - Second: Sarah McDaniel
- WAC Champion Updates
 - Dr. Nkenna Onwuzuruoha
 - Working with Natalie to coordinate summer workshop series
 - Need 10 to run
 - Have 8 applicants
 - need to check with chairs
 - Some are lecturers
 - Interest in revising existing GE course to also be a W
 - In the past, not allowed because want students to take W course in their discipline
 - Can we make the qualification that a Humanities GE W course only fulfills the W requirement for humanities majors
 - Applications due by May 15
 - [Application](#)
 - [Information](#)
- W Course Proposal Review

- [CLAS 175W](#)
 - Not using the most recent template; would suggest using the 2024 template to ensure details about university resources are up to date
 - Reword: Students should factor in possible technical problems by not submitting work well before the deadline.
 - Consider including a statement to address the use of AI; resources available with the Office of IDEAS
 - Appreciate the way put together; the overall structure of the course and the way in which assignments are scaffolded
 - Committee votes unanimously to approve
- W Course Requirement
 - From Dean Muscat: Could students take W courses as sophomores in order to alleviate the existing W course bottleneck that occurs at the senior level?
 - Do we have a way of determining how many W courses we need in each discipline to meet the needs of our students?
 - How many completers does each college have each semester?
 - How many W courses does each college offer?
 - [Approved W courses](#)
 - Committee Discussion
 - Feel like would take away seats from upper division students
 - Feel like it needs to remain as an upper division requirement
 - We need more W courses
 - Can we reach out to Deans and Department Chairs to let them know the discrepancy between number of W courses offered and number of students
 - Is it possible to incentivize the development and teaching of W courses?
 - Action:
 - Juliet will determine number of W course offered in each college and number of completers each semester by college
 - Send letter to each dean on behalf of committee
- W-Course Writing Textbook Requirements
 - [Survey results](#)
 - Next Steps:
 - Short-Term: Sarah will ensure students have access to the resources listed by faculty
 - Long-Term:
 - Share list of used resources with W course faculty who responded
 - Create a list of suggested resources
 - Determine whether or not we think online writing labs (i.e. Purdue OWL) can count as a writing resource
- On-going W Course Reviews:
 - EES 104W
 - February notes:
 - Suggestions:
 - No course schedule included
 - Learning outcomes focused more on products rather than specific writing skills

- [Additional materials](#)

- Feedback

- Liked the use of the Scorecard to help students stay on track; wonder if it would be helpful to include at least a mention of it in the syllabus
- Like the variety of writing assignments which do seem to be specific to the discipline; please consider adding the number of words required on each to ensure meet the 5,000 word requirement
- Suggest using the university template to ensure providing up-to-date information on university resources (i.e. Fresno State Library rather than Henry Madden Library)
- Consider including a statement about the use of AI within an Academic Integrity section; the Office of IDEAS has resources for this

- [EES 135W \(Dinosaurs\) - J Anglen](#)

- Please consider using the Fresno State template
- Little information provided about specific writing assignments
 - How many words are required for each?
 - Do students receive feedback?
 - What kind of instruction is provided?
 - It's not clear if the assignments total 5000 words
 - Only see two types of writing - article reviews and Jurassic paper
 - Which require multiple drafts?
 - Concern about optional peer review—appreciate that offering peer review but, given that part of the course outcomes, consider making it required
 - Reward labor of the writing process

- Adjourned at: 12:14

Ongoing Goals

- Develop bank of resources for faculty across disciplines who are developing W courses and who are currently teaching W courses
 - Action: Reach out to faculty at other institutions for syllabi and resources, primarily from STEM writing courses
- Formalize process for reviewing W courses
 - How does the Service-Learning committee review courses? What is its process?
 - Could we develop a syllabus template for W courses?