

University Writing Council

Report to the PSU Faculty Senate, AY 2021-2022

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Committee Charge

From the PSU Faculty Constitution, Article 4 Section 4: University Writing Council

The Committee shall

1. Make recommendations to the Dean, Provost, and Faculty Senate on such matters as writing placement, guidelines, and staffing for teaching writing in UNST, WIC, and composition courses;
2. Offer recommendations for improving writing instruction across the university;
3. Initiate assessment of the teaching and learning of writing at PSU;
4. Support training of faculty, mentors, and WIC Assistants teaching writing;
5. Advise on budgeting writing instruction;
6. Act in liaison with appropriate committees;
7. Report at least once a year to the Senate, outlining committee activities.

Committee Members

Kate Comer (Chair) – English

Alissa Hartig – Applied Linguistics

Brenda Glascott – Honors

Claire Wheeler – School of Public Health

Devon Allen – College of the Arts

Eowyn Ferey – IELP

Michelle Desilets – Library

Nila Friedberg – World Languages & Literatures

Susan Kirtley – English

Ex officio: Annie Knepler – UNST Writing Coordinator

Ex officio: Dan DeWeese – Writing Center; English

Completed Business

- The Mission subcommittee drafted principles of writing (practice and pedagogy) at PSU in order to establish common ground for future goals, including assessment and faculty development opportunities.
- The University Writing Requirement subcommittee reviewed 24 WR and WIC courses that fulfill the requirement (outside of UNST), looking at course descriptions, learning outcomes, assigned readings, writing assignments, and indications of process. Results indicated significant inconsistencies to be addressed next year.

Ongoing Business

- Revisit the 2014 WPA Consultant-Evaluators report and 2016 UWC Writing Action Plan (with 2018 updates); develop 5-year UWC strategic plan
- Articulate the purpose and value of the University Writing Requirement; communicate it more clearly to students, advisors, and other stakeholders
- Revise/clarify criteria for courses that fulfill the writing requirement; provide support for curricular updates
- Craft a coherent statement of writing pedagogy at PSU; foster campus conversations about best practices in writing across the curriculum and in discourse communities