

August 3, 2011

To: Susan Griffin, Chair
Department of English

From: Joanna Wolfe, Chair, Composition Committee

Re: Composition Committee Report, AY 2010-2011

The Composition Program and Composition Committee accomplished several significant tasks in 2010-2011. Many of the tasks completed were the direct result of work by the Assistant Directors of Composition (Caroline Wilkinson, Brice Nordquist, Alicia Brazeau and Jason Dietz), Sean Fenty, and Linda Baldwin in the Composition Program Office.

I2a Grant and English 101/102: The Composition Program received a \$10,500 i2a SUN grant to incorporate critical thinking and the Paul-Elder critical thinking terminology into English 101 and 102. Cohorts of part-time and term faculty will be meeting with assistant directors of composition throughout the academic year to workshop assignments, participating in grade norming sessions, and conduct other professional development activities.

CPE Grant and English 101/102: The Composition program has also been participating in a grant from the Council for Postsecondary Education to align our curriculum with the new standards. Sean Fenty is also working to align English 506. In total, \$30,000 will be coming to the composition program. This money will be primarily directed towards instructor stipends to pay for participation in professional development activities.

I2a Grant and Business Writing: The Composition Program completed its 2009-2010 i2a SUN grant to incorporate critical thinking and the Paul-Elder critical thinking terminology into English 306: Business Writing. A group of business writing instructors has updated the outcomes for E306, prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions, created model syllabi and assignments, and written up the results of interviews they held with faculty across the campus.

Assessment: Composition courses were assessed this Fall and all went smoothly. Results of the assessments for critical thinking will be discussed during the composition orientation.

Distance Education Business Writing: We ran two sections of Business Writing in the Fall semester and four sections in the Spring semester. These courses have been going well with student satisfaction rates equivalent to what we see in traditional classes. This spring the department authorized to continue offering E306 online as long as the number of face-to-face sections did not decrease from their current levels.

Celebration of Student Writing: The Composition Program held its third Celebration of Student Writing in April, 2011 around the theme of *Revising by Design*. This event

provides a chance for composition students to share their work with audiences outside of their immediate classrooms and to receive suggestions for revision. This year, we combined the event with our book fair and asked vendors to contribute for refreshments and other expenses. Both instructors and vendors were pleased with this combined event.

Dual-Credit Program Policy: Sean Fenty has continued to coordinate the English Department Dual-Credit Program. The program has expanded to include dual credit sections at Manual high school. Sean will be continuing in this position in 2011-2012.

Multi-Vendor Textbook Fair: The Program held its annual Textbook Fair in April with six publishers taking part. As mentioned above, this event was very successfully combined with the Celebration of Student Writing.

Professional Development Workshops: The Program conducted seven professional development workshops on issues including uses of technology in the classroom; sequencing methods; teaching information literacy; the work of being a WPA; incorporating the Celebration of Student Writing into writing courses; and using the book in common.

Part-Time Lecturer Teaching Awards: Hollye Wright was awarded the Part-Time Faculty Teaching Award in the Composition Program for 2010-2011.

Upcoming changes to Business Writing: The College of Business voted in Spring 2011 to hire new tenure-track lines in business communication, allowing them to take responsibility for teaching business writing to their own students. This will eventually result in a reduction of the number of business writing sections we offer annually.

Plans for AY 2011-2012

I2a and CPE Grants: The composition program will be very busy this year implementing the two grants we have received for professional development. We will have six cohort groups of 4-5 instructors meeting throughout the year to reassess their pedagogy. Because of the complexity of organizing these cohorts, we will be cutting back on the number of pedagogy workshops we offer this year.

Celebration of Student Writing: We plan to continue the celebration of student writing, again combining it with our book fair.

Program Outcomes: Based upon the work we are doing to align with Senate Bill 1, we plan to update our outcomes for English 101 and 102 to incorporate standards that are not currently covered under our existing outcomes.