

August 15, 2015

To: Glynis Ridley, Chair  
Department of English

From: Bronwyn T. Williams,  
Director, University Writing Center



Re: Writing Center Report AY 2014- 2015

The University Writing Center had a successful year in 2013-14, both conducting routine business and successfully launching several new initiatives. Credit for the accomplishments in the Writing Center is shared by the director, Associate Director Adam Robinson, Program Assistant Robin Blackett, Assistant Directors Jessica Winck, Harley Ferris, Meghan Hancock, and Stephanie Weaver, as well as the dedicated and talented staff of consultants. Particular thanks goes to the staff for their efforts in Spring 2015 while I was on sabbatical.

### **Achievements**

**1. Writing Center Consultations:** The Writing Center had a successful year of consultations. Visits for the 2013-14 Academic Year in Brief:

Fall 2014 –	Belknap	2120 Visits
	Health Sciences	39 Visits
	Virtual	358 Visits
	Total	2517 Visits
Spring 2015 –	Belknap	1928 Visits
	Health Sciences	30 Visits
	Virtual	353 Visits
	Total	2311 Visits
Summer 2015 –	Belknap	203 Visits
	Health Sciences	20 Visits
	Virtual	107 Visits
	Total	286 Visits
Total for 2014-15		5156 Visits

We saw a decrease of 142 visits over 2013-14. This decrease is attributable to the bad weather this past winter and the library construction this summer. During the winter we lost more than 200 appointments because of campus closings for bad weather and this summer we are down 143 visits in Ekstrom Library. We've had many students tell us they thought we were closed this summer.

**2. Exit Survey Results:** Our exit survey indicated a high level of satisfaction with the Writing Center, by both quantitative and qualitative measures. Our survey results were improvements on the results from 2013-14. Highlights of the survey are:

- In answer to the statement: “My Writing Center consultation addressed my concerns about my writing project,” more than 98% of respondents selected “Strongly Agree” (80%) or “Agree” (18%).
- In answer to the statement: “What I learned during my Writing Center consultation will help me with future writing projects,” more than 97% of respondents selected “Strongly Agree” (73%) or “Agree” (24%).
- In answer to the statement: “I plan to use the Writing Center again,” more than 96% of respondents selected “Strongly Agree” (78%) or “Agree” (18%).
- In answer to the statement: “The Writing Center staff were welcoming and helpful,” more than 98% of respondents selected “Strongly Agree” (86%) or “Agree” (12%).

The qualitative responses on the survey were overwhelmingly positive as well. A small group of suggestions mentioned the space restrictions in the Writing Center and suggested longer consulting sessions. The space issues may be addressed with our upcoming move in the Library. We feel the length of sessions is currently the most conducive to effective tutoring. Some students also mentioned frustration with finding the schedule full at busy times of the semester.

**3. Presentations and Workshops:** During the academic year, University Writing Center staff conducted 53 in-class workshops on writing issues and 110 presentations about our services. We also conducted workshops about effective writing for Residence Life, the Cultural Center, and other campus organizations.

**4. Design of the New Writing Center:** In Fall and Spring 2015 we worked with architects and the University Library administration to come up with a design for the new first-floor space for the University Writing Center. We also negotiated the funding of new furniture through the dean’s office in Arts and Sciences. We will move into the new space some time in Fall 2015.

**5. Faculty Writing Groups:** We began to facilitate Writing Groups for junior faculty. We ran two groups, one in Humanities/Social Sciences and one in Science/Engineering/Mathematics. We will continue the groups in the coming year.

**6. Writing Center Web Page:** We continued to add resources for student writers and for faculty with questions about teaching writing.

**7. New Associate Director:** Adam Robinson left his position as Associate Director of the University Writing Center to become the . After a national search that elicited 97 applications, Cassie Book, the director of the Bellarmine University Writing Center, was hired as the new Associate Director.

**8. Dissertation Writing Retreat:** The spring Dissertation Writing Retreats during May was again a success. In the May retreat, funded by SIGS, 14 Ph.D. students representing four different colleges and seven different disciplines spent a week in the Writing Center working on their dissertations. The exit surveys and discussions with the students indicated that the retreat was overwhelmingly successful.

**9. Graduate Student Writing Workshop Series:** The Writing Center, in collaboration with SIGS, conducted a series of writing workshops for graduate students on both the Belknap and Health Sciences Campuses. The workshops, some of which were repeated each semester, covered issues including Reading and Responding to Graduate Level Scholarship, Writing for Publication, and Writing a Literature Review. The workshops will take place again in 2015-16.

**10. Writing Center Blog and Social Media:** The Writing Center Blog, to which all members of the staff contribute posts during the year, was viewed more than 10,000 times in 2014-15. The blog has now been viewed more than 25,000 times in the past four years, with the numbers increasing every year. In addition, many of the posts have drawn interest from readers outside the UofL community.

**11. Writing Center Scholarship:** During the 2014-15 academic year a number of Writing Center consultants presented their scholarship at conferences including the Conference on College Composition and Communication, the Southeast Writing Centers Conference, the Kentucky Philological Association Conference, and the National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing.

**12. Campus Outreach:** Writing Center staff worked with a number of University programs, giving presentations and conducting workshops. These programs included the Porter Scholars, A&S Advising, UofL Athletics, the Career Center, the Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program, Family Scholar House, the Delphi Center, E.S.S.E.N.C.E, Housing and Residence Life, First Year Initiatives, the Dental School, Student Affairs, TRIO, Ekstrom Library, and the International Center. The presentations given by the Writing Center staff resulted in many students then visiting the Writing Center for the first time.

**13. Marketing:** Marketing activities this year included contact with most student service offices on campus, and contact with chairs of a number of academic departments

**14. Learning Commons:** The Writing Center continued to meet with other student support organizations located in Ekstrom Library to coordinate Learning Commons activities. The offices involved are the Digital Media Suite, Media Resources, the REACH Computer Resource Center, the Reference & Information Literacy Department, and the Writing Center.

### **Plans for 2015-16**

**University Writing Center Move:** The relocation of the Writing Center to the first floor of the Library will engage much of our focus and energy for Fall 2015.

**State Writing Center Directors' Meeting:** We will host a day-long seminar for Writing Center directors and staff from across the state. This will take place in February.

**Creative Writing Program Collaboration:** We hope to explore ways to strengthen collaborations between the Writing Center and Creative Writing students and faculty.

**Family Scholar House:** We plan to begin a regular series of writing workshops and consultations at one of the Family Scholar House campuses.

**First-Year Student Research Study:** We are planning a research project on first-year student use of the University Writing Center.

**Digital Media:** We plan to continue, and expand, our work consulting with students on digital media projects.