Friday, February 21st, 2025
10:00 – 11:30 AM
<https://fsw.zoom.us/j/81809684012> Meeting ID: 818 0968 4012

Members Present: Jamie Votraw, Mary Schultz, Don Ransford, Scott Courtney, Esmaeel Samaliazad, Suzanne Biedenbach, Kenneth Belcher, Joel Reinking, Brian Page, Elizabeth Schott, Cara Minardi Power, Dani Peterson, Alex Schimel, Steve Chase, Rebecca Harris, Martin McClinton

1. Meeting called to order at 10:00 am.
2. Minutes from the Friday, November 15th, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved.
3. Course Change Proposal – (adding the WI designation to PHI 2010 – Introduction to Philosophy)
	1. Professor Votraw sought feedback and questions about the proposal. No concerns were raised, so she made a motion to support the proposal. Dr. Biedenbach seconded the motion.
	2. The committee unanimously voted in support of adding the WI designation to PHI 2010.
4. WAC Proposal Review – Updated
	1. Dr. Biedenbach presented two models for a new WAC position: hiring a director or forming a committee.
	2. The council first reviewed the job descriptions.
		1. Professor Ransford suggested changing to the language regarding course releases to reassigned time.
	3. Dr. Minardi Power proposed using the language 'communication across the curriculum' or ‘writing to learn’ rather than ‘writing across curriculum’ to encompass more aspects of learning.
		1. The committee discussed the different options for the position's title and agreed.
	4. The committee then discussed how to enhance the job description.
		1. The committee agreed the job description should include language regarding AI skills and an ability to adapt to a changing technology landscape, as well as language emphasizing professional development duties and a need to stay current with communication technologies.
	5. The committee next discussed the job qualifications.
		1. Dr. Minardi Power explained that rhetoric and composition specialists are uniquely qualified to teach writing due to their extensive training in composition.
			1. Drs. Harris and Page suggested focusing on the balance between theoretical and practical knowledge, debating whether to emphasize specific degrees or the skills and experience.
			2. They suggested it is more important to focus on the skills and experience, rather than limiting the position to one or two degrees. Also noting, this will attract a wider pool of candidates.
			3. Professor Votraw proposed broadening the language in the job description to include alternative qualifications and experience, such as “or a degree in a similar field”, etc.
		2. Professor Votraw proposed additional job description language regarding course development and instructional design.
			1. The discussion centered on ensuring the individual's credibility to support faculty, particularly those from non-humanities disciplines lacking experience in building writing-intensive courses.
			2. It was agreed that the person should have experience in course development and instructional design.
	6. The group moved on to the teaching expectations for the new role.
		1. It was debated what number of courses per year was appropriate. The conversation ended with a consensus on the necessity of the new role to teach one to two courses per semester and offer PD.
	7. The committee next discussed which of the two WAC position models to prioritize: the Director position or the WAC committee.
		1. Dr. Minardi Power preferred the committee model but raised concerns about sufficient release time for committee members. The team discussed the challenge of securing release time for committee members given the limited amount granted to other committees.
		2. The committee considered the pros and cons of this approach, with some members expressing concerns about the stability and potential challenges of having a committee.
		3. A suggestion was made to consider making a WAC standing committee to increase its importance and create an opportunity to negotiate release time.
			1. The team also discussed the possibility of the director position being responsible for creating a standing committee.
		4. A vote for the preferred model was taken, and the committee voted that the director position is the preferred model over a committee model. However, upon recommendations from Dr. McClinton related to budget concerns, GEAC agreed to first advocate for a standing committee as the next step.
			1. Drs. Minardi Power and Biedenbach will present the academic standing committee idea to the full faculty senate, seeking a vote of support to forward the initiative to the Union. Upon support of the faculty senate, GEAC will request that the union representatives negotiate for a WAC standing committee.
	8. Lastly, the group discussed the need for data to support the proposal. It was agreed that starting a standing committee could help to build a case for the administrative role. The idea of approaching the Union to create a standing committee was discussed.
5. AA and GEPR Catalog Page Updates/Foreign Language Competency
	1. Dr. Harris presented the Foreign Language Competency memo, which clarifies the options students have to satisfy the competency according to State statutes.
		1. Professor Peterson raised a question about the policy for American Sign Language (ASL) courses, which Dr. Harris agreed to investigate.
	2. Dr. Harris also discussed updates to the General Education Program Catalog, which involved the removal of certain general education courses and revisions to institutional learning outcomes.
6. Committee–Department Updates
	1. English (Suzanne Biedenbach, Cara Minardi Power)
		1. Dr. Minardi Power mentioned the extension of the current OER to include English 1102 and a master course redesign over the summer.
		2. Dr. Biedenbach shared her positive experience with the new Technical Communication course.
	2. Mathematics (Don Ransford)
		1. Professor Ransford discussed some of the advising challenges due to the new pathways.
	3. Academic Advising (Alex Schimel)
		1. Director Schimel emphasized the availability of drop-in advising and the upcoming summer schedule publication.
7. Announcements
	1. No relevant announcements.
8. Adjournment
	1. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.