Writing Instruction in the Disciplines (WID) Committee
April 20, 2015
12:00 pm, Horrabin Hall 60

Present: Nathan Miczo (chair), Tawnya Adkins Covert, Julia Albarracin, Debra Allwardt, Neil Baird, Courtney Blankenship, Mei Wen. Absent: Samit Chakravorti, Magdelyn Helwig.

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:01 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes from 4-6-2015. Approved with minor changes.
3. Announcements: Next year the committee will lose Albarracin, Allwardt and Blankenship. There are two new faculty appointments who will be present at our next meeting and still one vacancy from COFAC. At the next meeting a chair and recording secretary will need to be elected.

Update on CHEM401 Miczo will be forwarding our comments/suggestions from the last meeting to the professor and department chair.

4. Review of WID Courses: PSY323

 In general there was concern about the amount of work required for the Research Methods course and if there was even enough time for writing instruction. Adkins Covert offered that in their department content from their Methods course was shifted to another course to allow for more writing instruction in the Methods course. Discussion surrounded how it seems the “instruction” piece of the WID courses is where many fall short. Clearly students are writing in PSY323 and receiving feedback; more detailed instruction may be implied, but the committee is uncertain given the course materials. The instructor submitted "guidelines for writing" sheets, so clearly instruction on writing is taking place. Further, the answer to question 1 under III. Structure of the WID Course does not provide specifics regarding instruction. Perhaps this question needs to be rewritten to something like "Explain how your instruction in your course (via lectures, content, preparation) teaches disciplinary writing to cover all assignments." Given the WID committee is in the early stages of review, we want to provide positive feedback and hope WID faculty will be open to suggestions.

 Blankenship offered to summarize comments in a way that may be shared with the instructor for PSY323.

5. Update: WID Anthology

 There wasn’t sufficient time to cover this so there may be further communication over email.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m. The next meeting time will be at noon, May 4, 2015.

Respectfully, Courtney Blankenship