

# Writing Committee Annual Report, 2019-2020

## Members

Erin Baucom, Mansfield Library 2019 -Chair

Any Ratto-Parks, English 2020

Jessica Dougherty, Missoula College 2019

Stephen Yoshimura, Communication Studies (2020)

Elizabeth Dodson, Forest Management (Fall) (2021)

Sarah Halverson. Geography (Spring)

(the committee was short members from Humanities and Science)

## Student member

Nicolaus Ream

## Ex-officio members

Shareen Grogan, Director, Writing Center

Erin Wecker, Director, Composition Program

Nathan Lindsay, Vice Provost

## Business Items

- The following Writing Courses were approved in the fall.

### Intermediate Writing

HSTA 373	The History of American Thought to 1865
HSTA 391	Digital Worlds of America(one-time-only fall 2020)

### Advanced Writing

BIOM 420	Host-Microbe Interactions
Distributed-BS	PHAR 350: Introduction to Drug Information
Pharmacy	PHAR 550: Drug Literature Evaluation

- Director Grogan shared the [Writing Center Annual Report](#) with the committee. This academic year Director Grogan traveled to Seeley Lake High School to set up support for students in Dual Enrollment courses. The Writing Center is also offering Zoom tutoring to Bitterroot College

students.

- Two Writing Course Exemption Appeals were approved. Keegan Nashan was granted an exemption for PHIL 3930, Aristotle and Kant from Tulane to satisfy intermediate writing, and Maryam Norton for Literary Theory from Vassar College.
- The minor edit to the [Intermediate Writing Course Exemption Appeal Guidelines](#) was approved.
- The Writing Committee considered two advanced writing substitution requests. The request from the Psychology to substitute the advanced writing requirement with courses taken from Ashland University was not approved. The request from Social Work to substitute 3 courses taken from SKC together was approved.
- The Committee approved the substitution request for Pharmacy BS students. The experimental course offered this fall is the same course the committee approved. The students need the course to satisfy the advanced writing requirement to graduate.
- The Committee agreed that the assessment report for Composition should be considered annually in October.
- The Intermediate and Advanced Writing Course Forms were edited to include assessment in preparation for the rolling review next fall.

#### UPWA

- The Writing Symposium was held on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Symposium was well attended and went really well. The attendees discussed some of the nitty-gritty difficulties of working with organization.
- Director Ratto-Parks is still having difficulty with uploading the data from Banner for the UPWA analysis. She is working with the Data Office to clarify what data can be tracked to show that the efforts are enhancing writing instruction. She is thinking about creating a certificate for workshop attendance. Vice Provost Lindsay suggested using the Advising Certificate as a model.
- The UPWA Interim Assessment report was shared with the committee and a brief overview was provided by Professor Ratto-Parks.
- UPWA will be transitioning to Submittable. The system will randomize the papers and has all the FERPA restrictions in place. The system is intuitive and has the feel of a social media site. The UPWA will transition after the placement exam is fully functioning in Submittable. Moodle will still be used to communicate with students.
- On Friday, March 3, the Spring 2020 Writing Assessment Workshop was held from 9 am-3 pm. The event was attended by 13 faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants from a variety of

programs across campus. Attendees participated in learning to use the UPWA Holistic Rubric and all 80 prepared samples were scored before the conversation turned to more practical, classroom-level applications of the kind of assessment thinking built into the rubric.

## Communication items

- International Pronoun Day was October 16<sup>th</sup>. Director Grogan shared a statement from International Writing Centers Association regarding the use of the singular they. The document was posted on the Faculty Senate agenda under Good and Welfare to help spread awareness.
- A clarification communication was provided to ASCRC and advisors regarding the confusion between the Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Language vs Language and Composition and the credit students receive at UM.