

University Writing Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2011
2:30 pm -3:30 pm, Provost Office Library

Present: Peter Murphy, Josh Adair, Misty Evans, Jeff Osborne, Taufiq Rashid, Paul Walker, Kelley Wezner

Not Present: Marcie Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm. Minutes from March 28 meeting were corrected and approved.

Murphy asked members to focus on tasks that could be completed over the summer, but before that discussion, he asked for quick updates from each committee.

ENG 105. Walker had nothing new to report.

Writing Center. Jeff Osborne reported that the Center had had a successful year due to very good GAs. WAC had given a presentation at the Center. He remains concerned that the Center has no university funding and that the money donated to open the Center will end in approximately 15 months. He had submitted a proposal for funding, but the outlook was not promising. He is concerned that there is a perception that the Center is a "Library thing." He asked that QEP communicate the need for funding to the Board. He strongly advocated for a new \$10 student fee for the Center. Murphy suggested that there is not a sense of urgency among administrators because there is funding in place for the next year. Wezner asked how long it would take to implement a student fee going through appropriate channels. Murphy agreed to talk to Provost Higginson about funding. There was some question as to whether Dean Murray has included the Writing Center on his priority list. There is concern about the Writing Center being the centerpiece of SACS/QEP and then closing due to a lack of funding. Murphy asked Osborne to submit a budget because it is easier to ask for funding with a specific number in mind rather than asking for a general commitment to funding. Osborne agreed to submit a budget to Murphy.

HB 1. Evans requested a copy of the Writing Intensive Courses spreadsheet. She is struggling with how to demonstrate the results of her work.

WAC. Wezner reported that Faculty Development sessions had been co-sponsored by WAC and the sessions had been well received. A WAC website is being developed.

First Year Reading Experience. Murphy asked Adair if there is a set budget for this project. Wezner said that there is not and each year Academic Affairs and Student Affairs negotiate who will pay for what.

Essay Contests and Publications. Rashid asked Wezner for help in getting the names of the Writing Ambassadors and the Writing Intensive courses spreadsheet.

Murphy reported that there were no other essay contests on campus. He asked for ideas on how to proceed with the publication idea. He thinks that it is a great idea but sees problems with putting together an editorial board. There was discussion about how to collect essays for

inclusion: COMP, First-Year Experience, HUM, CIV, Writing Intensive Classes. Walker expressed the concern that a lot of effort and time is going into creating a publication in order to showcase writing but this doesn't help improve student writing. Wezner responded that there may be no short-term improvement, but instructors would be able to use the journal to provide examples of good writing to their students. Another suggestion on how to improve student writing is to invite guest speakers to discuss the importance of writing in their work. Murphy reiterated that his goal for QEP was to implement programmatic changes to enhance student writing. He also suggested that this need not be the entire committee's work and that a subcommittee could take over the publication task. In the meantime, questions to be addressed:

- 1) How much is it going to cost? Would need five people to read essays.
- 2) Explore the possibility that the publication of the online journal could be a project for students in the Journalism department.
- 3) Evans stated that essay contests are seen as elitist by developmental students. She suggested that service learning writing classes would be a good avenue to explore. Perhaps work with Kelly Rogers, Carmen Garland, and Jim Carter (alumni) to set up a speakers' series. Murphy suggested that the series could be called "On the Write Path Forums" and that they could be CTLT/QEP-sponsored events.

It was suggested that the task of improving writing was beyond the scope of this Advisory Board and that a Writing Program Administrator position be created to coordinate a university-wide writing program. As an alternative, Murphy suggested that the group expand in size with its focus on developing a writing program. The group would report directly to Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education Renae Duncan. He cautioned that while the current focus of QEP is writing that could change over time.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.