

## **2020-2021**

### **Writing Across the Curriculum Committee Report**

#### **Chair: Doug Eyman (Chair, CHSS)**

**Committee Members:** Thomas Britt (CVPA – 2021, Daniel Hanley (COS – 2022), Douglas Eyman (CHSS – 2022), Marcie Fyock (CEHD – 2021), David Gally (BUS – 2021), Dimitrios Ioannou (VSE – 2022), Suzanne De Janasz (Carter – 2022), Denise Osborn-Harrison (CHHS – 2021), Mariely Lopez-Santana (Schar – 2022)

**Consultants to the Committee:** Lorelei Crerar (COS), Greg Robinson (CVPA), Peggy Brouse (VSE), Susan Lawrence (Writing Center), Karyn Kessler (INTO Mason), Esther Namubiru (INTO Mason), Ashley Yuckenburg (B-school), Jacquelyn Brown (B-School), Ellen Rodgers (CEHD), Michelle LaFrance (CHSS), Jen Stevens (University Libraries), Bethany Usher (Office of Undergraduate Education), Laura Lukes (Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning), Jessie Matthews (Composition), Lisa Lister (Composition), Courtney Wooten (Composition), Shelley Reid (Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning)

#### **WAC Program Staff:**

Acting Director: Thomas Polk

Assistant Director: none

Graduate Assistants: none

The Committee met 5 times during the 2020-2021 academic year; a scheduled sixth meeting was cancelled because the Acting Director of the WAC Program was on parental leave. The Committee's charge includes: developing WI course policy and guidance, advising the director of Writing Across the Curriculum, approving new writing-intensive (WI) courses, reviewing WI course syllabi, and assisting with activities and events related to Writing Across the Curriculum.

#### **2020-2021 Committee Actions:**

- Approved 3 new WI courses this year: FAVS 304, SOCI 485, GCH 611 (Mason's first graduate-level WI)
- Recertified 2 standing WI courses: CEIE 301 and ECE 333
- Approved new outcomes for WI courses; outcomes will be required of all courses seeking to newly acquire the WI attribute effective immediately; standing courses that have already obtained the WI attribute will be expected to adopt the new outcomes during their next review cycle
  - o Approved a new application process for approving WI courses
  - o Formally articulated the relationship between Composition courses and WI courses to further clarify the structure of Mason's writing curriculum
  - o Analyzed Composition and WI course outcomes to note themes that might inform written communications outcomes for the Mason Core

- Discussed potential needs for faculty development
- Considered current policy about 'instructors': who should be considered as an 'instructor' and what types of professional development and support they should have
- Discuss the potential articulation of outcomes for Written Communication category in the Mason Core
- Discussed ongoing research efforts by the Writing@Mason team looking at student experiences with writing at Mason and student enrollment patterns in Written Communications and Capstone/Synthesis courses

**WAC Program Activities (Discussed w/ WAC Committee Members):**

- Consulted with Office of Undergraduate Education and Stearns Center on continued revisioning of the WAC Program as an integrated, project-based program
- Continued revision of WAC website to articulate new vision of WAC program
- Collaborated with the Composition Program on ongoing research about student experiences with writing at Mason
- Facilitated new professional development programming on teaching with writing in any course, including a new workshop series and new faculty learning communities (FLCs) on Teaching with Writing and Teaching Research Writing
- Collaborated with Stearns Center to host synchronous Faculty Writing Sprints every Friday of the fall and spring semesters, Faculty Writing Retreats in January and May, and occasional panels on the academic writing life

Thomas Polk compiled this report.