

Campus Council on Assessment and Learning Meeting December 3, 2019

Present: Alex Musselman, Chair, Stoerm Anderson and Andreas Brockhaus (ZOOM), Kristin Gustafson, Lesley Hurst, Charity Lovitt, Daniel Nyachuba and Adrian Sinkler

Leslie Hurst, UWB Librarian, Head of Teaching & Learning shared information with the CCAL on recommendations for Writing across the campus.

Last year external reviewers conducted a campus visit and submitted a report with several recommendations to strengthen writing instruction on campus. This year the Council of Deans has charged a Writing Program Review Response Work Group to gather feedback from campus stakeholders on the recommendations, including how to prioritize them and which ones we should adopt.

Hurst provided an overview of the report and detailed the recommendations for the CCAL to review and requested that CCAL representatives gather feedback from their faculty on these recommendations:

1. **Absorb the suite of first-year composition courses and their instructors completely into IAS, so that they are definitively identified campus-wide with the School, participate fully in its governance, receive funding equal to other Curricular Area Working Groups within it, and contribute regularly to its curriculum.** The recommendation to move first-year composition courses (BWRIT 132, 133, 134, 135, 137) from FYPP to IAS would mirror the move made recently in math, by which introductory math courses moved from FYPP to STEM in Autumn 2019).
2. **Establish the position of Director of Writing Across the Curriculum.** The reviewers noted: "UW Bothell has a current and intense need for an administrator who can coordinate current practices, increase the knowledge base of faculty about writing, develop consistency in pedagogical practice, and add to ways in which students learn about and record their writing progress and accomplishments." This is a common practice on many campuses but an identified gap on ours.
3. **Increase connections across the curricula.** The reviewers recommended establishing more connections between faculty who teach with writing across and within the Schools including:
 1. Sharing practices
 2. Providing faculty development opportunities
 3. Creating structures for first-year writing faculty to communicate with faculty who teach writing in the majors
4. **Increase knowledge about and development of W courses.** The report noted that there is little consistency and a lack of standard practices around these courses on our campus.
5. **Increase faculty knowledge about writing, especially assessment.** The reviewers noted that faculty expressed a desire to learn more about how to effectively assess student writing consistently and fairly. They recommended expanding opportunities for faculty to reflect on their practices and to align them with the learning goals of the university.
6. **Implement an electronic portfolio program across the undergraduate program.** The final recommendation was to require that students from every major build an electronic portfolio throughout their undergraduate careers. (This would be separate from any existing portfolios within the Schools.) The reviewers noted that "ePortfolios are an excellent avenue for those outside the university to understand what learning is taking place through various educational experiences of students."

Recommendations focus on first-year composition. UWB currently does not have a standard for Writing courses. We need to determine if we want to follow UWS standards or set our own standards. UWT has hired a Director of Writing and will define what W means for that campus.

CCAL discussion points

- We need to develop a standard that maps to UW in earning a degree.
- W courses have established a course size of 64 students, maximum.
- Is W assessed at the unit level or the School level? There seems to be a variety of assessment strategies.
- There is no campus-level assessment of what designates a W course.
- What is assessed in W courses, context, grammar, organization?
- Students can request a writing component in a non-writing course.
- Lab courses with a significant amount of writing can also be designated as W courses.
- Consultants recommended that UWB establish a position of Director of Writing Across the Curriculum.
- We currently have a Director of Composition, Professor Alice Pederson.
- There have been discussions on the use of e-portfolios for student career use and also for tracking and assessing how to meet learning goals.
- What do we wish to achieve? What goals are we pursuing? There are different instruments for different goals.
- We need to develop a campus-wide strategy for a W designation.

Hurst will send the full report to the CCAL, she is accepting feedback through December 11th.

Musselman updated the CCAL on her discussion with the Executive Council, she received useful feedback from the Council. The EC supports the community engagement learning goal, the next step will be to propose the learning goal to the faculty for vote. The Council discussed revisiting the campus undergraduate learning goals, student evaluations of teaching and systematic assessment of learning goals across the campus.

CCAL discussion points

- There are ongoing faculty concerns regarding Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET) and how the data from the evaluations is used.
- We need a better understanding of what our SET measure and how they align with the campus undergraduate learning goals.
- Are SET valid as a way of measuring student learning or progress in a classroom?
- The role of the CCAL will be to help determine assessment of learning goals, what methods will give us the outcomes we want?
- Are learning goals being met? UWB does not have an assessment management system.
- The CCAL could work with the Educational Advisory Board, they are a resource.

Next steps:

1. Gather qualitative data on what's happening in the Schools and units.
2. Consult with the Deans on assessment practices.
3. Compile questions on a Canvas page on assessment and SET.

Musselman announced that Barb Van Sant, the Program Coordinator for the CCAL is retiring the end of December and thanked her for her work with the CCAL.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Van Sant

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm

The next CCAL meeting will be determined.