## MINUTES OF THE WRITING COMPETENCY SUBCOMMITTEE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

5200 North Barton, M/S ML 34 Fresno, California 93740-8014

Office of the Academic Senate Ext. 8-2743

April 28, 2022

Zoom: https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/2984108197

Attending: Jenny Krichevsky, Amanda Dinscore, Jacquelin Curry, Lalita Oka, Aric Mine, Jamie Levitt, Juliet Wahleithner (chair)

Missing: Maria Dolores Morillo, Bernadette Muscat (Ex-Officio), Nigel Vigan (Student)

## Agenda:

- Welcome
  - o Approval of minutes from April 8, 2022
    - Moved: Jenny Krichevsky
    - Second: Amanda Discore
  - Approval of Agenda
    - Moved: Amanda Dinscore
    - Second: Aric Mine
- WAC Updates from Jenny Krichevsky
  - Advertising for June STEM WAC retreat
    - 11 applications received + 2 additional expressed interest
    - Importance of having exemplar syllabi from STEM majors to share with faculty
  - o In May, will ask Provost's Office for budget for 2022-2023
    - One course release allows time for consultations plus 1-2 workshops/semester
    - Currently has course release for FLC for Fall
      - Focus will be developing critical thinking through writing
        - Deliverable: either W course syllabus OR significant changes-including writing sequence-to an existing syllabus
  - Lalita: Wondered about seeking NSF funding to focus on writing in engineering
- Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement
  - o <u>Updated CSU Policy</u>

- Jenny shared memo from CSU AVP that indicates requirement will be waived for students if campuses do not have enough courses available, but no specific end date is listed
- Second bullet point indicates one 3-unit course: Engineering had idea to spread three units across one academic year
  - Not ideal, BUT given choice between no writing course (because high-unit, impacted major) and stretched out course, stretched-out course is preferable
    - also allows to not lose content that is necessary in existing courses
    - Importance of flexibility in high-unit majors
- Fresno State's Letter of Support
  - Still needed?
    - Yes-still need to remind policymakers of importance of discipline-specific writing courses in order to appropriately prepare graduates for future professions
- TurnItIn-Amanda Dinscore
  - Background
    - Science professor who assigned students to use TurnItIn and receive less than 7% score
      - Students turned to Amanda with concerns who were unable to meet minimum
      - TurnItIn highlighted commonly-used phrases, scientific terminology
      - Led to students shifting language in awkward ways to try to reduce scores
      - Amanda's analysis showed ACTUAL plagiarism from scholarly articles but no real plagiarism from student papers; TurnItln's database does not include scholarly articles, only student papers
    - CSU pays for system-wide subscription
  - o Resources:
    - A Guide for Resisting Edtech: the Case against Turnitin:
      - https://hybridpedagogy.org/resisting-edtech/
    - CCCC Position Statement:
      - <a href="http://culturecat.net/files/CCCC-IPpositionstatementDraft.p">http://culturecat.net/files/CCCC-IPpositionstatementDraft.p</a>
         <a href="mailto:df">df</a>
    - Turn it Down, Don't Turnitin: Resisting Plagiarism Detection Services by Talking About Plagiarism Rhetorically
      - http://cconlinejournal.org/spring2013\_special\_issue/Vie/ind ex.html
  - Business Protocol
    - Require students to submit papers through Canvas screening
  - Response Possibilities
    - Committee Statement?
      - What is our goal?
        - Encourage people to not use TurnItIn

- Develop their understanding of the problematic nature of TurnItIn
- Educate people in how to use it effectively if will use it
- Could students do something to complain to the chair? Or take it to the ASI?
- Future work
  - Need to get back to W-course audits–focus for 2022-2023?
    - Concerns: Courses don't align with APM
    - Specific course concern: Dinosaurs class
- Announcements
  - o May 5, 4-6 Library Write-In for students
- Adjourned at 12:07

Next Meeting: May 5, 11-12