

Minutes

GWAR Committee

1:30 – 3:00

Meeting Number 1

September 6, 2024

In attendance: Eve Baker, Nicollette Brant, Lori Brown, Jill De La Torre, Tom Do, Lisa Fascia, Eileen Klink, Loretta Ramirez, Deepti Singh, Courtney Stammler, Alexandra Wilkinson

Call to Order: 1:42 PM

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the agenda did not occur at this meeting.

Approval of meeting Minutes for May 3, 2024

Approval of the minutes did not occur at this meeting.

Officer Elections

Chair

Ramirez was nominated for the chair position and accepted the nomination. She notes that she is an assistant professor in Latinx Rhetoric and Composition, and her PhD is in English and Rhetoric. During her teaching career, she has taught at private, public, and community colleges. She has been Vice Chair of GWAARC for two years and is confident about moving into the Chair role.

Vote: A motion to bring Loretta Ramirez on as chair was made. Brant seconded the motion. Ramirez was voted in as Chair for the academic year of Fall 2024/Spring 2025.

Vice Chair

Stammler asks what the Vice Chair's responsibilities include. Brown notes that the Vice Chair works with the Chair on several subcommittees when decisions need to be made in short time frames. The Vice Chair also fills in during meetings when the Chair cannot be present.

Klink nominates Stammler for the Vice Chair position. Stammler accepts the nomination. Brown notes that Stammler is not officially on the roster, but an exception may be made. Brown will look into this.

Vote: There was motion to bring Courtney Stammler on as Vice Chair, and it was seconded by Do. Stammler was voted in as Vice Chair for the academic year of Fall 2024/Spring 2025.

Recording Secretary

Wilkinson was nominated for Recording Secretary. Wilkinson accepted the nomination.

Note: There was a motion to bring Wilkinson on as Recording Secretary. Wilkinson was voted in as Recording Secretary for the academic year of Fall 2024/Spring 2025.

GPE - Testing Update

Baker notes that on September 13th and 14th, 2600 students are signed up for the GPE.

GWAR Coordinator's report

Brown notes that she usually provides documentation from the student ahead of time but was not able to do so in this case, as documentation was late coming in. Brown notes that when a student petitions the GWAR office, they can petition to waive the entire GWAR, which is rare. This was more common when the campus only had the WPE (test only), as students could not take a portfolio class if they did not pass.

Another type of situation GWAR is reviewing more frequently includes transfers of WI classes and GWAR from another campus. If a student meets the GWAR fully on another CSU, they can transfer that status over to CSULB. However, a student must be matriculated at the other university when meeting the GWAR. However, there have been discussions of CSU Fully Online courses counting toward WI courses. Brown notes that every campus has its own process to determine if the student meets the GWAR or not. It is challenging to determine whether one CSU Fully Online course meets the GWAR when the class is taken on another campus with a different policy.

Student petitions often inform GWAR that the syllabus from the other CSU Fully Online college states that the class meets the GWAR requirement. However, it may only be one of the required classes that meet the GWAR on that campus. The class students take could be part of a two or four class series. Last March, this committee approved a statement that GWAR could not be met through CSU Fully Online. Do asks if CSULB knows what every institution is doing to be able to determine if the student meets the GWAR on another campus. Brown notes that we try the best we can, but it is not possible to keep track. However, if a student meets the GWAR fully at another campus, the student can get documentation stating this. Stammler recommends that GWAR put a statement on the website noting that CSULB will not accept CSU Fully Online classes to meet the GWAR.

Brant provides an update on the campus Cal-GETC policy and notes that it is still unclear whether the critical thinking requirement will become critical thinking and composition. This academic year, there is a new committee and chair. Brant also encourages anyone from this committee to attend the Academic Senate meetings.

Brown notes that CEPC continues to have our policy proposal and it has not moved to Senate. CEPC has voted on a line or two that changed the policy dramatically. The second lower-division class from the policy and the second upper-division WI class have been removed. This means that the GPE, portfolio classes, and two writing classes will be removed if this policy passes as is. This would leave the campus and our students with what this campus already requires (one freshman composition class and one upper-division WI class) but without the safety nets of the GPE and portfolio classes. This is frustrating to many committee members.

Petitions for GVAR Waiver

Student 1 - NU46

Brown notes that **NU46** originally wanted one portion of the GVAR waived. More specifically, a portfolio class. **NU46** took the GPE and scored a nine on the exam, placing them into a portfolio class. This committee previously voted and approved the student to take the portfolio class and the writing-intensive class simultaneously rather than in order. The committee was recently informed that the student took the WI class and received an A over Summer session. **NU46** is currently enrolled in a portfolio course this semester. As noted previously, the student believed there would be multiple prompt questions rather than just one and, therefore, rushed through it to get to the next set. **NU46** has requested a waiver for the portfolio class of GVAR.

Note: There is a motion on the table to waive the portfolio class for **NU46**. The motion was approved.

Student 2 - SZ47

SZ47 is a Health Care Administration (HCA) major and also studied abroad in London. SZ47 wrote to the department and asked what classes could be substituted while abroad. The department stated that English 306 - Writing Across London (abroad campus) could be considered HCA 417, and it would be a substitute. The student has documentation from the department and advising stating that this class would count toward the writing-intensive class.

Fascia asks if the student provided a course syllabus. Stammler states that usually, yes, a syllabus is provided. Stammler notes that this case is different since the student went through the department, and they approved the course substitution.

Note – A motion is made to allow the student to substitute English 306 from study abroad to count as the student's WI course and meet the GVAR. The motion passes.

Student 3 – BZ48

Stammler notes that BZ48 received a ten on the GPE. The student is requesting that the score be waived. BZ48 provided a letter from a medical professional stating that the score be waived because of anxiety. The note is not on letterhead and is in Word document format. A discussion occurs about the student requesting BMAC accommodations. The student does not provide any additional documentation for writing ability.

Note: There is a motion to deny the request to waive the GPE Score for BZ48 and suggest the student register for BMAC and retake the test with BMAC accommodations or at the student's choice to take the portfolio required at the WI. The motion passes, and the waiver is denied.

Adjournment: 3:05 PM

Submitted by,

Alexandra Wilkinson