

Minutes
Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement Committee
Meeting 7
December 6, 2024
1:30pm-3:00pm

In attendance: Eve Baker, Nicollette Brant, Lori Brown, Tom Do, Lisa Fascia, Lorenzo Gutierrez-Jarquín, Loretta Ramirez, Deepti Singh, Courtney Stammler, Maiyoua Vang, Alexandra Wilkinson, Mark Williams

Call to order: 1:33 PM

Approval of Agenda

Gutierrez-Jarquín moves to approve the agenda, and Baker seconds the motion. The agenda is approved.

Approval of Minutes for 11-15-2024

Williams moves to approve the minutes and Gutierrez-Jarquín seconds the motion. The minutes are approved.

Announcements

GPE Testing Update: Eve Baker

Baker notes that November test scores are posted, and students have been notified. The next exam is scheduled for February.

GPEAC Update: Tom Do

Do notes that the GPEAC has selected three prompts for the February exam and will revise and update prior to the January 22nd meeting.

GWAR Coordinator's Report

Brown discusses the last CEPC meeting and notes that the council attempted to finish reviewing the GWAR policy and send it to senate. Brown notes that there is only one Senate meeting remaining before the end of the semester. The CEPC chair will simultaneously present the new CEPC version of the policy and the original GWARC draft policy to Senate.

Ramirez discusses the GWARC charge of reviewing WI classes and would like to know where that charge is discussed. Brown notes that this was an add-on created by the Academic Senate Executive Committee as they did not want to open up the official policy at the time. There was a second document that added this to GWARC's charge about four years ago. It was an addendum and not in policy. Brant notes that ongoing assessment is a GEEC's charge. Brown notes that it

cannot be handled by GEEC because WI is no longer a GE requirement. However, Brown notes that many WI classes happened to be GE courses.

Brown discusses a possible timetable for transitioning the campus to the new GEAR policy. There will be a time for current students who would need to be under the previous policy while new students enter the college under the new policy. This timetable has not been approved yet, but Brown will update GEAR.

Student Case of NE52

The student NE52 wrote a letter to the GEAR, stating that the environment in which they took the test was not ideal. The environment included many people and an abundance of noise in the household that impacted their score. Wilkinson asks if the student submitted their appeal before or after the score was received. Brown states after. Brown asks Baker if any anomalies were reported on testing day. Eve notes that the student did not contact the Testing Department about her testing environment while taking the exam.

Williams notes that the student appears to be a proficient writer. Fascia notes that if their graduation date is a concern, some students have been approved to complete their WI class while completing the portfolio course. Williams asks if this kind of appeal is rare and if they are generally approved. Brown notes that they are rare since the actual petition form is to waive the entire GEAR. The process was initially created to waive the GEAR when the campus only had a WPE (exam only, not portfolio classes). Brown states that students often want GEAR to adjudicate their writing ability. However, that is not GEAR's role. Singh notes that the committee has no way of knowing if the student actually wrote the provided writing sample without the context of the class. Brant notes that writing an essay for a class is different than writing an essay in a timed setting. Gutierrez-Jarquín notes that, technically, this student could have graduated this semester if a hold had kept the student from advancing before taking the GPE. Gutierrez-Jarquín asks if portfolio courses are offered in winter session, and Stammler states no.

Stammler notes that this is common for students after the test scores come back and they disagree with their score. As an exam reader, Stammler notes that students are rewarded for what they do well. The writing piece is also treated like a first draft. When a student does not pass, it is because it falls below the minimum requirements and multiple people score the exam. Brown notes great empathy for this situation. However, it is not GEAR's responsible for reviewing the student writing. Brown does not see an exception for this student case at this time. Singh agrees with Brown. Gutierrez-Jarquín notes the student was notified in August and was also reminded by CLA about incomplete graduation requirements in September.

Note: Williams motions to deny the GEAR waiver request for NE52, and Gutierrez-Jarquín seconds the motion. The motion for NE52 is denied.

Next Meeting: February 7, 1:30-3:00pm

Remaining meetings: Feb. 21, Mar. 7, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 2

Adjournment: 2:32 pm