

**TO:** Sue Abbotson, Chair of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC)  
**FROM:** Mike Michaud, Chair of Writing Board (WB)  
**DATE:** 10/19/18  
**SUBJECT:** Report on WB Activity (Sept/Oct)

### **Work of the Writing Board**

The Writing Board is currently in the process of planning its annual Faculty Development Workshop (FDW), scheduled for 1/16/2019. Our speaker this year will be Dr. Barbara D'Angelo of Arizona State University. We are in the process of finalizing the details, but we anticipate that Dr. D'Angelo will give a workshop on teaching research and writing in the disciplines. We are excited for her visit.

The Writing Board is pleased to host its annual First Pages faculty reading on 10/22/18, 4-5pm (Adams Library). For more information, please visit the [Professional Development](#) page on the Board's website. Or, I've included our poster with this report.

### **Work of the Writing Board Chair**

#### *WID Visibility Project*

During the 2018/2019 academic year, I am tasked with the additional work of supporting departments as they carry out WID-related projects as articulated by COGE (spring 2018). Specifically, each department has been asked to accomplish the following, under the guise of what I am calling *The WID Visibility Project*:

1. **WID Webpage:** departments/programs will need to create a WID webpage, to be included on department/program homepages, in which answers to a series of common WID questions, provided by COGE, are given (this webpage will ultimately become a link within the grey navigation box on the left side of department/program homepages);
2. **Syllabi Statement:** departments/programs will need to include language on course syllabi which explicitly identify WID courses as such;
3. **RhodeMap:** departments/programs will need to revise their RhodeMaps to explicitly identify which classes in their curriculum count as fulfilling their WID requirement.

Towards these ends, I have accomplished the following:

1. Identified chairs of departments and programs and reached out to them individually on this initiative with an offer of assistance (August 2018).
2. Reached out to individual department chairs and program directors again to offer support (October 2018).
3. Have met (or will meet) with department chairs and/or representatives to discuss the initiative and guide the process:

- a. Health and Physical Education (liaison: Elizabeth Kennedy-England, 10/15)
- b. Sociology (liaison: Jill Harrison, 10/18)
- c. Anthropology (liaison: Praveena Gullapalli, 10/23)
- d. Communication (liaison: Giselle Auger, 10/30)

Departments which have acknowledged emails but not yet set up meetings or wish to tackle this work on their own:

1. Film Studies
2. Elementary Education
3. Environmental Studies
4. Math and CS

### *Writing Board Events*

As Board chair I coordinate logistics for the First Pages and Faculty Development Workshop events. I'm currently in conversation with our speaker for the FDW, planning her trip, itinerary, travel, etc.

### *Professional Development Work*

1. *SSTW Follow Up*: Each fall I meet with participants in the Summer Seminar for Teaching Writing (SSTW) to offer ongoing support as faculty attempt to build on their summer work by implementing what they've learned about writing and pedagogy in their courses. During the fall term I meet with each participant individually for a conference and coordinate two-follow up meetings for participants to share and reflect on their experiences.
2. *Teaching*: This fall I am team-teaching SWRK 580: Professional Writing for Social Work (w/Chris Lambert). This collaboration with Social Work is years in the making as I have conducted numerous professional development workshops for and with their faculty, worked closely with members of their faculty on the Writing Board, and consulted for several years on the unique challenges they face with regard to student writing. It's been an enormously gratifying collaboration and I feel fortunate for the opportunity to work with and learn from their students and to try to learn more about the challenges they face with writing.
3. *The How To of Peer Review Online Mini-Course*: This course was created several years ago and is designed to offer professional development on matters related to writing and pedagogy to faculty who are not able to attend F2F sessions. We ran it both fall and spring last year and it was well-attended. We plan to do the same this year. As of this writing we have eight faculty signed up for this fall's course (cap: 10).
4. *Collaboration with First-Year Seminar*: I am scheduled to work with Maureen Reddy and members of the FYS faculty to offer a professional development discussion on low-stakes writing on 10/31/18.

5. *Collaboration with Nursing (Graduate Faculty)*: On 9/18/18 I met with Meg Mock and Kara Misto to discuss challenges they face with the Master's program and, specifically, the MA Thesis proposal process. This collaboration will be ongoing.
6. *Collaboration with CRCA*: The Writing Board is looking to collaborate with CRCA and get involved in some way with the spring showcase.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these developments and for your ongoing support of the RIC Writing Board.