# 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

# March 26, 2021

# Attending: V. Crisco (chair), L. Herrera, J. Levitt, A. Mine, L. Oka, M. Sosa (student representative)

# Ex-Oficio: J. Krichevsky, B. Muscat

# Visiting: J. Wahleithner

# Missing: A. Dinscore, J. Curry,

# The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by chair Crisco on Zoom.

# Agenda Approved, Minutes from 02/25/21 approved.

I. Old Business

## ASAM 161W: the committee felt that the revisions to this course were good and she addressed our comments. We asked her to take out any reference to this course being associated with GE or the GE portfolio. We approved her course with these changes unanimously.

## Continuing Discussion about the GWAR: Research: Aric has been working with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness in order to get more information about our campus’s interaction with GWAR. They found: 1) There has been a shift in students who take the exam -- more students seem to be taking the course which is why the change of success rate is higher. 2) Most students are transitioning away from taking the writing exam. 3) There are slightly more W courses, but many more of the courses we have are being taught. 4) Course pass rates are hovering in the high 80s, except for a few examples. 5) Less than 10% of students are taking the writing exam and over 80% are taking the course

## Plans for GWARD Proposal: Based on the research above the committee brainstormed what we should do in response to this research and the Chancellor’s call to eliminate an exam option. The committee decided we should create a 5-year plan. We should focus on writing at the junior level, as that is supported by research and it can give students an introduction to the discipline. We noted that most students now take English 160W, 117W and Anth 105W/ 116W, and BA 105, but only E 177W, and BA 105 are required for majors. We thought the plan should focus on getting each major to have their own W course or at least have a course or set of courses for each college. We also thought a plan for assessment would be good to include as well as a plan for creating a culture on campus that focuses on the benefits of students learning to write.

# MSC to adjourn at 10:00 AM

# Next Meeting: May 6th at 1pm