

2022-2023

Writing Across the Curriculum Committee Report

Co-Chairs: Virginia Blair (CPH – 2023), Seth Hudson (CVPA – 2023)

Committee Members: Jacquelyn Brown (SBUS – 2023), Leslie LaCroix (CEHD – 2023), K. Raven Russell (CEC – 2023), Eric Anderson (CHSS – 2024), Suzanne De Janasz (Carter – 2024), Daniel Hanley (COS – 2024), Ellen Laipson (Schar – 2024), Thomas Polk (WAC Director, ex officio)

Consultants to the Committee: Peggy Brouse (CEC), Carla Burns (CHSS), Lorelei Crerar (COS), Doug Eyman (CHSS), Janet Ha Poirrot (CHSS), Anna Habib (Composition), Michelle LaFrance (CHSS), Susan Lawrence (Writing Center), Eunmee Lee (Academic Resource Center, Mason Korea), Lisa Lister (Composition), Jessie Matthews (Composition), Gina Polychronopoulos (OIEP), Shelley Reid (Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning), Greg Robinson (CVPA), Ellen Rodgers (CEHD), Jen Stevens (University Libraries), Colleen Sweet (CHSS), Bethany Usher (Office of Undergraduate Education), Sarah Wittman (SBUS), Courtney Wooten (Composition), Ashley Yuckenburg (SBUS)

WAC Program Staff: Joan Hwang (Graduate Assistant Director), Esther Namubiru (Graduate Assistant), Tim Lilley (Faculty Fellow)

2022-2023 Committee Activities

To date, the Committee has met 5 times during the 2022-2023 academic year; a scheduled sixth meeting is scheduled for the end of April following the submission of this report.

Revised Committee charge: Collaborated internally and in consultation with Mason Core to revise the Committee's charge. The proposed changes are meant to reflect more accurately the role of the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (WAC-C) at Mason, providing a clearer view of the committee's role in assessment and as a resource to Mason faculty. Specifically, the new charge articulates the committee's focus on supporting faculty who teach with writing and commitment to WAC principles of advocacy for equitable practices and intentional integration of writing-enriched learning across disciplines. The new charge also reflects a change in the WAC-C's role regarding Writing Intensive (WI) course compliance, coordinating with and advising Mason Core on outcomes while continuing to support faculty teaching WI courses.

Revised Writing-intensive course outcomes: Refined and clarified the Writing-intensive course requirements. Specifically, members simplified and reduced the number of learning outcomes WI courses are expected to integrate. These changes better reflect multidisciplinary approaches to writing and should be more accessible to faculty across the curriculum teaching the WI course.

Liaised with academic units: Met with units at the department and college level to discuss the new WI outcomes and the implementation process the Committee has developed; these meetings served to inform units about the implementation process, to discover ways to support faculty and units as they integrate the new outcomes, and to engender enhanced communications between the Committee and units about writing in the disciplines and Mason's core writing curriculum.

Provided support for faculty: Designed and delivered a faculty development workshop at the Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference in fall 2022. The session focused on the new WI learning outcomes and offers ways for faculty to meet the new outcomes in their teaching materials.

Thomas Polk compiled this report in collaboration with WAC Committee Co-chairs Virginia Blair and Seth Hudson.