Inaugural WAC Meeting – 10/1/15 @ 11:00am

Present in Meeting Today:
Chris Putman – Public Relations
Evie Lindberg – Education
Lori Kanitz (Committee Chair) – English and Modern languages
Lois Ablin- Organic
Even Culp – Communication Arts
Olgy Gary – Lead Instructional Design – ogary@oru.edu < for the minutes

Absent:
Lenore Butay (Nursing)
Kerry Loescher (Theology)-excused

Notes:
- Overview of the Program
    - Initiative began as grassroots initiative in 2001 for HLC approval
    - Original Need sprung from concerns about writing
    - Review of Mission Statement
    - One workshop / year
    - Goal: Both students and faculty more please with results of better writing
    - Original Model: Cohorts for faculty WAC development
    - WI – Writing Intensive classes are no longer as popular as they once were
    - Website available for WAC – Available on the faculty/staff intranet
    - Newsletter announces award winners and important WAC issues
    - Chris (Putnam) won last WAC award
    - Kerry (Loescher) won prior to Chris
    - Members of the WAC committee are sent to conferences to learn WAC
    - Benefactor makes the WAC committee possible
    - LTC – Nashville – the name of the business that sponsors the WAC committee
    - Phyllis Shelton-Pomakoy
    - She'll (benefactor) be here for Golden Week
    - Steven, Evie, Evan showed an interest in Phyllis speaking in class
- Basic WAC Concepts
    - WAC – Writing across the Curriculum
    - WID – Writing in the Discipline
        - The purpose of WID is to make students proficient writers in their discipline
        - Workshops were used to make the WID concepts known to faculty
        - Students are often confused by the writing conventions of the discipline
        - Faculty need to help students write better
            - Ex: Students are actually encouraged to write in passive voice for the science disciplines
            - Ken Weed was very successful at implementing WID
            - (Evan) – The process of writing helps students to think critically. Ex: A well written proposal is what is required for a grant

- • Lori – The WAC workshops are designed to implement faculty giving writing assignments
- **International WAC conferences take place every other year, and will take place in 2016**
  - o Deadline for papers is Oct. 1, 2015
  - o Some of the faculty members will be available to go to Michigan June 2016 to participate
  - o Handout Given
  - o Marsha will be going to the WAC conference
- Old Business
  - o Ted Talk style presentations have been suggested so that the WAC concepts can be shared in classes (Evan is willing to produce videos)
  - o **New/Additional suggestion – Bringing in professionals from industry that can be featured in the WAC videos**
  - o **The "WAC template for WID Resource Videos" is the handout that would be used to prepare the interviewees for their interview**
  - o Question from Evie: "What is it about the way debate team students learn that makes them better prepared for writing than those who do not?"
  - o Answer from Evan: "There is a process to deconstruct an argument. Regina Farmer would be a good resource to identify that process."
  - o Lori – Hang on to that idea. This would be a good topic for a workshop.
- New Business
  - o Goals for 2016:
    - ▪ Evan – Dream. We can come up with resources this year, and my role is to get the resources we need to improve the writing of our students.
  - o Discussion- WAC Committee Member Goals – Organic conversation:
    - ▪ Chris – I used to only teach writing, but now I'm working with event planning and other PR topics. Jonathon Cyprowski and the yearbook team could use some additional support producing the yearbook.
    - ▪ Lori – One thing we tried in the past is supporting graduate schools with a dedicated student worker for help with writing. But I'm wary about being able to support the media department with a TA. But there may be some technology that we can use.
    - ▪ Steven – Can we Crowdsource the writing of yearbook materials by asking the various respective students in other departments/clubs to create content for the yearbook? Could be enabled by technology
    - ▪ Lois – Can we train TAs to be better at helping faculty members grade?
    - ▪ Lori - WID Worshop topic: Identifying WID idiosyncrasies and evaluating writing based on the output
    - ▪ Steven – The online writing portal – Smart thinking – ran out of budget last year. Let's not let that happen again.
    - ▪ Lori – Students can also go to the writing center in student resources. Writer's workbench is software they can use.

- Steven – Let's consider Hemingway App http://www.hemingwayapp.com as an additional tool for student help with editing.

- CLOSING: To do for Committee Members:
    - Committee members come up with industry leaders in your discipline for the videos
        - Identify individuals
        - Email the name to Lori and CC Evan
        - Get dates scheduled with Evan
    - Committee members survey WID needs according to faculty in their respective departments
    - Lori – Email the interview questions to the committee