

**QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**COMMITTEE ON WRITING IN THE DISCIPLINES/WRITING ACROSS THE  
CURRICULUM (WID/WAC)**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
ACADEMIC YEAR  
2007 – 2008**

**Membership**

Officers:

Dr. Jeffery J. Jankowski (Social Sciences), Chair  
Dr. Margot Small (Mathematics and Computer Science), Secretary

Members:

Dr. Peter Gray (English), Co-Director, QCC WID/WAC Program  
Dr. Sandra Marcus (Library)  
Dr. Julian Stark (Biology)

Liaisons/Designees

Dr. Arthur Corradetti (Academic Affairs), President's Designee, outgoing  
Dr. Michelle Cuomo (Academic Affairs), President's Designee, incoming  
Professor G. Iakovou (Nursing), Steering Committee Designee  
Professor R. Yuster (Electrical and Computer Engineering), COC Liaison

Ex-Officio:

Dr. Linda Stanley (English), Co-Director, QCC WID/WAC Program

**Committee Meetings**

The WID/WAC Committee met six times during the 2007-2008 academic year. The meetings were held on the following dates: October 16, November 27, January 29, February 5, April 9, and May 7. The minutes for each of the minutes are available for review on the website for the QCC Academic Senate.

**Summary of Committee Work**

Bylaw Charges / Committee Responses

**(1) Bylaw Charge:** Oversee and make recommendations to the Academic Senate related to the WID/WAC Program.

The Committee made no formal recommendations to the QCC Academic Senate during the 2007-2008 academic year.

**(2) Bylaw Charge:** Review and recommend changes in the criteria for a writing intensive (WI) class to the Academic Senate for its approval.

The committee made no recommended changes in the criteria for a writing intensive (WI) class to the QCC Academic Senate during the 2007-2008 academic year.

However, it should be noted that the committee spent a considerable amount of time in the Fall semester considering a proposal put forth by the History Department. In essence, the committee was asked to consider a proposal that would change the designation of all history courses to writing intensive. This change in designation would reduce considerably, if not modified, the number of students per class from 40 to 25 (WI class cap) in history courses. In turn, fewer students would be able to fulfill their history requirements in any given semester. To help alleviate this problem, the seat limit in history courses would be raised to 30 students. In exchange for the increased workload, members of the department would receive a reduction in instructional hours.

In considering the proposal, the committee was thankful for the input from Dr. Arthur Corradetti from Academic Affairs as well as from Professor Gil Visoni from History. Both gave generously of their time assisting the committee in its deliberation. After considerable discussion, the proposal was not forwarded to the academic senate. Concerns were raised by members about the impact on the cross-disciplinary nature of the Writing Intensive Program as well as increasing the class size from 25 to 30 in history courses.

**(3) Bylaw Charge:** Oversee a continuing WID/WAC Faculty Professional Development Program with the Office of Academic Affairs.

The Co-Directors of the WID/WAC Professional Development Program kept the Committee informed throughout the year of its two WI training programs. One the sessions ran in the Fall semester while the other ran in the Spring semester.

**(4) Bylaw Charge:** Hear and decide student cases requesting a waiver from any WI degree requirements.

The Committee spent a significant portion of time hearing and deciding requests for WI waivers. The number of waiver requests presented to the committee fluctuates on a meeting-by-meeting basis. Each case is scrutinized carefully with considerable thought given to the justification for a waiver. The committee acknowledges the considerable time Dr. Michelle Cuomo from Academic Affairs spends in presenting the cases to the committee.

Based on the cases the committee hears, several problems impede students' ability to fulfill their writing intensive requirement. In particular, students who transfer from other colleges/universities are not always aware of the requirement. Or, students cannot always find courses to meet the requirement. In addition, students who register online are not always aware of the requirement. In the past academic year, significant gains have been made in making students aware of the requirement by mailing notices toward the end of their program. Advisors, too, are being asked to make students aware of the requirement. Also, changes are forthcoming in the online registration system to notify students of the requirement.

The committee also thanks Dr. Karen Steele for her ideas/thoughts on the issue of increasing students' awareness of the WI requirement. Dr. Steele came for a meeting at the request of the Committee.

**(5) Bylaw Charge:** Provide a list of current WI certified classes and the instructors certified to teach WI classes to the department chairs who will make the final decision on the designation of a course or section as WI each semester.

The Co-Directors of the WID/WAC program provided copies of all WI-certified classes and instructors at the beginning of each semester. All course offerings with WI designations during Fall 2007, Spring 2007, and Summer 2007 were approved unanimously and certified by the Committee.

**(6) Bylaw Charge:** Insure through a certification and recertification process that all classes designated as WI meet the criteria for a WI class.

The Co-Directors kept the committee informed of the status of the faculty teaching the WI courses. The faculty who received WI training were the only ones who taught such courses.

**(7) Bylaw Charge:** Provide the Committee on Committees with a list of faculty members who are participating in the WID/WAC program.

Throughout the academic year, the Co-Directors provided the committee with a list of faculty who were eligible to teach WI courses (i.e. faculty who went through the WI training).

### **Matters of Interest**

- The committee welcomed Professors I. Avens and M. Gayle to serve on the committee for the 2008-2009 academic year.
- The committee also thanks Professor J. Stark who will be leaving the committee at the end of the 2007-2008 academic year. In addition, Professor P. Gray will be serving the committee as an ex-officio member during the 2008-2009 academic year.
- Professor J. Jankowski was elected to serve as the chair of the committee for the 2008-2009 academic year.
- The chairperson would like to thank all members who served on the committee throughout the academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery J. Jankowski  
Chairperson, 2007-2008