WLC Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, February 8, 2012


Opening Announcements

1. Chalet reminded everyone that the follow up to the last workshops were coming up in a week’s time.
2. Chalet informed the committee that we still had an additional $500.00 left over from the January workshops and that she hoped that perhaps we could use towards a mini-workshop or some other smaller event.
3. Chalet also informed the Committee that our student representative could no longer serve on the Committee and that we needed to select a replacement.

Workshops

1. Chalet suggested a follow-up to the writing in the Sciences workshop. She also expressed the opinion that our Presenter did not do a good job at that Workshop of making a case for the necessity of WAC’s existence.
2. Christine seconded Chalet’s judgment on this year’s presenter noting that last year’s speaker, Michelle Cox, made a much better presentation. In particular, Christine believed that Math had been neglected by this year’s presenter. She stated that perhaps Math & Science should confer with one another about what they believe their needs are. She also remarked that she liked the idea of non-graded writing assignments in class.
3. Chalet noted that there will be a Biology only thinking about writing session and she asked Christine if Math-Science would like a separate workshop. Christine thought that the relevant departments should get together about this option.

Westfield Writes Response

4. There was a big faculty response to the idea of doing more creative writing.
5. Email constituted a large percentage of faculty writing and that time constraints inhibited many faculty members from doing more and different kinds of writing.
6. Christine wondered what the possibilities were for more creative text book writing with the IPAD or similar technology. She thought that we should look into what possibilities via Nook and the IPAD for new text book creation exist.
7. Sonya suggested we ask people at other institutions about what they may be doing in this regard.

Brown Bags

8. It was observed that people on campus do not have time to lead brown bags on creative writing.
9. Sonya stated that maybe the English Department could do something this year on this topic.
10. Chalet suggested a Faculty Writes Brown Bag series on a particular topic such as memoir writing or perhaps even better, we could have a summer writing prep brown bag or seminar.

11. Chris suggested that people who have already done some summer writing projects could share their experiences and tips with others. Chalet added that there could be a panel discussion followed by small group discussions. Perhaps, we could dispense with the term panel discussion for this sharing.

12. Christine believed it would be better to use our money for food at such an event instead of for faculty stipends. Chalet added that we could have a facilitator at each small group table according to the writing topic of the group. Sonya added that Finals Week would not be a good time for such an event! Rather, she thought that the end of April or beginning of May would be better times for such an event. Perhaps, there could be Tuesday and Wednesday sessions to maximize participation. Chalet added that we should be thinking of colleagues who would be good facilitators and nominate them.

Student Representation

13. Chalet asked if members of the Committee could nominate potential student representatives. She noted that the Committee’s meeting time may need to change as members’ schedules have changed for this semester.

Potential Brown Bag Topics

14. Fiction & Poetry
15. Faculty Rubrics