

## MINUTES

GWAR Committee

### ZOOM Conference

1:30 – 3:00

### Meeting Number 3

October 2, 2020

**In attendance:** Joseph Aubele, Eve Baker, Lori Brown, Annel Estrada, Noah Golden, Sarvenaz Hatami, Isaac Julian, Elizabeth Lindau, Tina Matuchniak, Shabnam Sodagari

The meeting was called to order at 1:46 p.m. A few members were late due to an issue with the e-mail announcement.

The committee motioned, seconded, and approved the meeting agenda and the minutes from the September 18, 2020 meeting.

**Announcements:** Brown announced that Lizette Rojas, an analyst employed in Kerry Johnson's office will join next week's meeting. She analyzed statistics from past GPEs looking at demographic information, and has just given the report to the Provost.

**Sub-committee to be designated as writing intensive. The committee hopes to have a report by the next committee meeting.**

**No one is on the GPE AC yet, but a small roster of people has been nominated to serve.**

**GWAR Coordinator's report:** Since COVID-19 cases shut down what little on-campus activity was happening, we may need to reconsider alternatives to the on-camera requirement for the online GPE. Things could change too rapidly for us to accommodate students who cannot or will not be on camera.

Brown asked whether we should waive or simply eliminate the GPE due to continued disruptions. Committee members offered a variety of suggestions and perspectives:

Golden inquired about the percentage of students who pass the WI courses after placing in them through the GPE. This question was echoed by other committee members later in the discussion. Lindau asked whether there was a way to see how this number changes with no GPE this year.

In the event that we waive the GPE, Matuchniak suggested that we offer other forms of writing support, and promote the opportunity for the portfolio courses.

Julian advocated waiving the exam to alleviate student stress.

Estrada brought up student perceptions of the GPE, and how timed writing in a test situation may not be the best indicator of writing ability. She also agreed that waivers were a good option, but reminded the committee what an administrative difficulty it has been to grant them. They created unintended consequences for advising and enrollment services. Brown replied that it may be possible to extend the waiver another semester, probably including summer. Matuchniak said that since the waiver is COVID-related, we should consider it separately from GWAR policy.

In response to questions from Lindau, Aubele explained how the GPE is evaluated. Readers are asked to look for “first draft” quality. They look for a combination of structure, mechanics