

2023 CCCC Writing Across the Curriculum Standing Group Report

Submitted to the CCCC Officers by Crystal Fodrey, WAC SG Chair, on March 20, 2023

The CCCC Writing Across the Curriculum Standing Group (WAC SG), which was established in April 2017, held its CCCC SG Business Meeting with guest speaker Anna Mills on Thursday, February 16, 2023 in collaboration with the AWAC Mentoring Committee, and plans to hold elections this fall.

1. Business Meeting

The WAC SG Business Meeting was held on Thursday, February 16 from 6:30 to 7:45 PM CST at CCCC in Chicago. It was attended by approximately 30 participants. The 2022-23 WAC SG Chair (Lee Nickoson) provided background on the group and made announcements about upcoming WAC-related news. This included announcements from various Association for Writing Across the Curriculum representatives regarding award and mentorship opportunities.

Anna Mills from the College of Marin then gave a talk titled “How Should Writing Pedagogy Evolve as AI Text Generators Improve?”

Abstract: “Given the recent advances in AI Large Language Models (LLMs) such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, our students can now use text generators to produce essays or parts of essays that are not copied from human sources. What steps should we consider to prevent learning loss due to the unacknowledged use of these tools? How can we guide students toward an informed critical perspective on the nature of the tools and their pitfalls? And how might we use these tools in our pedagogies to stimulate critical thinking and writing skills?”

To conclude the meeting, Nickoson invited participants to engage in small group discussions on the following topics with assigned facilitators:

- Table 1: WAC and AI Text-Generated Writing (Anna Mills)
- Table 2: WAC and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (Chris Basgier, Ashley Holmes)
- Table 3: WAC Graduate-Student and Faculty Development (Ming Fang)
- Table 4: WAC Programs at Small Liberal Arts Colleges (Crystal Fodrey, Chris Hassay)
- Table 5: WAC Theory and Research (Laurie Pinkert, Alisa Russell)

2. Sponsored Activities

CCCC WAC SG Appointment for Incoming Chair. We put out a call for nominations for WAC SG members to serve as incoming chair in Fall 2022 and are pleased to share that Elizabeth Wardle agreed to serve.

2023 CCCC WAC SG-Sponsored Panel. The sponsored panel submitted by the WAC SG leadership titled “The Work of Doing Hope in Writing Across the Curriculum,” explored the “crazy hard questions” (Frankie Condon, 2023 CCCC CFP) facing WAC: What would a feminist model of WAC look like? (C.C. Hendricks, U of NH-Manchester); What stories do students and teachers in writing-in-the-disciplines (WID) courses share? (Haivan Hoang, U Mass-Amhurst); and, How are WPAs implementing antiracist work? (Jessa Wood, U of MN-Twin Cities). Unfortunately Hoang was unable to attend the conference in Chicago, but Hendricks and Wood gave talks on their topics with Nickoson chairing and leading discussion. This panel was presented the afternoon of Thursday, February 16, 2023, chaired by Lee Nickoson.

SG and WAC Clearinghouse Sponsored Social Hour. This event was held during CCCC 2023 in Chicago at the Weather Mark Tavern at 1503 S. Michigan Ave on Friday, February 17, 2023. Approximately 25 folks attended this social event.

3. Future Actions

Rotation of leadership. After the March 21 business meeting, the Outgoing Chair (Chris Basgier) rotated off of the board, the Chair (Lee Nickoson) rotated into the Outgoing Chair position, the Incoming Chair (Crystal Fodrey) rotated into the Chair position, and the newly-elected board member (Elizabeth Wardle) became Incoming Chair.

CCCC 2024 sponsored panel. As mentioned above, we plan to once again propose a Standing Group-Sponsored panel for inclusion on the CCCC 2024 program. Fodrey will send out a call for WAC SG panel proposals to the Writing Studies and WAC listservs by early April.