

Writing Committee of Lock Haven University
Minutes
March 3, 2006
Sullivan 310

Present: Roger Johnson, Brenda Corman, Julie Story, Rick Van Dyke (chair), Martin Maresch, Greg Walker, Scott Richeson, Melinda Hodge, John H. Wilson

Announcement:

Writing Across the Curriculum Workshop in the TLC on March 29th at noon.

Old Business:

Approval of the Minutes from Nov. 16, 2005. Martin moved to approve, seconded by Brenda. Two minor changes. Motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes from Feb. 3, 2006. Brenda moved to approve, seconded by Roger. Motion passed.

Reports:

- I. Faculty Support (John): nothing to report.
- II. Student Support (Julie & Brenda): Julie reported on services available through the Writing Center, the Educational Opportunity Program, the Summer Development Program, the Office of Disability Services, Student Support Services, Career Services, and Clearfield. Action ideas for LHU include accreditation for the Writing Center, certification for tutors, academic credit for tutors, collaboration between First Year experience and Writing Emphasis (WE) faculty, more activity on the part of faculty recommending students to Writing Center, online writing tutorials, and support for ESL, developmental, LD, and graduate students. Action ideas for Clearfield include more remediation and a professional rather than a peer tutor. Julie will distribute a detailed list of services and action ideas to the Writing Committee via e-mail.

Brenda reported on her contacts. Lucy Tabler, chair of Freshman Year Experience Committee, said that there was a proposal to create a three-credit first-year seminar and a grant submitted, but it was not funded. According to the graduate program at LHU, graduates of other colleges show better writing skills than graduates of LHU. The library provides various resources, including style manuals and computers for writing and research.

- III. Intake Assessment (Roger): SAT essays are accessible, but these may not be useful because they are written during the junior year. Accuplacer may serve as a starting point for assessment, with electronic grading of essays that proves “surprisingly accurate.” A sample of incoming student writing would help to make the case for a two-course Composition sequence or Developmental Writing.

IV. Administration (Greg): A prompt has been created, and in the last two weeks, eight to nine responses have been collected from instructors who taught WE in Fall 2005. The information concerns assignments, evaluation, rubrics, and resources needed and used. Information is still coming in.

V. Assessment (Rick): There have been meetings with WE instructors regarding scheduling, signing up for tasks, supplying beginning and end numbers, and providing reliability data. Reports of data are due after spring break.

New Business:

John reported a proposal from the Outcomes Assessment Committee to eliminate their Writing Subcommittee and to rely on reports from the Writing Committee. Rick agreed to speak with Jim Bean regarding the proposal.

Roger pointed out that the Middle States visit for accreditation is scheduled in 2010, with an LHU self-study due in 2009. Middle States is interested in assessment: not the plan, but the delineation of changes LHU has made as a result of assessment. Since it usually takes a year to make any changes at all, LHU can't afford to put off assessment any longer. The Writing Committee needs support to carry out assessment, and Rick agreed to contact Mark Cloud about putting the need on the Meet & Discuss agenda.

Next meeting: April 7th at 3:00 in Sullivan 310.

Respectfully submitted,
John H. Wilson