

# Action Update 2003

## Excellence in Writing Committee

### Summary

A. The Excellence in Writing Committee continues to provide support to faculty through variety of activities such as:

1. Once a month lunchtime training workshops are offered by resident faculty experts with funding from the provost's office. These workshops are in high demand and are well attended.

2. A web site is maintained with current resource and links to other web sites.

3. Writing tips are provided at various faculty meetings.

B. The Writing Resource Center has increased the number of writing tutors.

C. Amount of writing in courses is monitored in courses as part of departmental program reviews.

### Report

1. Workshops

- a. Karen Russikoff
- b. November faculty in-service

2. Sponsored Lunch discussions

a. We sponsored, some with the committee for diversity, 5 lunches held in the West Dining Room on the following topics:

- i. Turnitin.com/MITT      October      Janis Dietz
- ii. Writing Guide      November      Cathy Henley-Erickson and  
Eric Grekowicz
- iii. On-line tutoring      February      Steve Kinzie and Bailey  
Smith
- iv. On-line grading      March      Eric Grekowicz
- v. Celebration      May      All

3. Writing tips for faculty. During faculty assembly, we held a space every month to update faculty on new initiatives.

4. Web site

5. Assessment

6. MITT

a. We were able to use the MITT in the learning center for training about academic honesty. We also trained a freshman seminar and several graduate classes. The MITT will go into use in English 111 next year.

b. The MITT is in the course outline for the graduate English classes taught to international students.

7. Turnitin.com has been very successful and has generated more than 900 hits.

8. On-line tutoring

9. Faculty survey

We surveyed the part-time faculty at the November in-service, and full-time faculty through email. We received a response from 70 people, with all schools represented. The results were used in a poster session, posted to our web site and presented to the Faculty Senate.

10. Faculty retreat: We had a poster session showcasing the results of our survey of full and part-time faculty. The results showed that a majority of the faculty feels the writing skills of our students are below average and that 79% of the faculty would support an exit writing exam.

11. Two of our members, Andres Zervignon and Marga Madhuri, created a brochure entitled "You Know What They Mean, How to Help Them Write it." This will be used for faculty on the central campus as well as the School of Continuing Education.

Summary of activities presented to Faculty assembly in February:

- The attendance at the sponsored lunches has been excellent, with good participation and feedback.
- Writing folders are in use by faculty
- Hacker Writer's Reference gaining widespread support.
- Multi-Integrity Teaching Tool seminars presented to undergraduate and graduate students. We will locate it in the learning center and add to English 111 classes.
- Turnitin.com is used by 15% of faculty
- Faculty survey:
  - 47% have participated in workshops about writing
  - There is overwhelming support for an exit writing competency exam.
  - 63% of faculty feel student writing is below average.
  - People are interested in learning more about giving writing feedback

### Proposal for 2003/04

1) Sponsored lunches:

a. We have the following lunch sessions planned:

September	Discussion of our new brochure—"You know what they mean, how to help them write it."
October	Reading strategies
November	Language usage update
February	Academic Honesty
March	TBA
April	TBA

Total: \$ 700

2) Turnitin.com \$1500

3) "You know what they mean  
—how to help them write it" \$ 800

4) On-line tutoring \$1,500

Total: \$4,500