



Master's Degree Consortium

of Writing Studies Specialists

2013 Annual Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2013
6:30-8:30 p.m., Las Vegas, Nv.

Welcome and Update on Past Year's Activity

Derek Mueller welcomed the approximately 20 attendees and briefed the group on the Consortium's activities over the past year. The 2012 Survey of Programs was finished in August 2012. Co-chairs John Dunn and Derek Mueller wrote and illustrated the 36-page report in the fall and released the report on the Consortium website, the WPA-I listserv, and the mwriting-L listserv on February 20, 2013.

Developing the survey yielded insights about appropriate adjustments to the membership roster. The roster and map were adjusted accordingly from 196 members to 179 members, including Seton Hall University (NJ) and Coventry University (UK)—the newest institutions to add MA/MS programs.

Discussion of 2012 Survey of Programs

John Dunn discussed highlights from the 2012 Survey of Programs, which yielded responses from 82 (45.8%) of the 179 programs on the Consortium roster. The survey is the largest of its kind with a focus on rhetoric and composition, writing studies, and technical and professional writing MA and MS programs to date. The data suggest many dimensions of programs worthy of further examination and discussion.

Program profile series

Executive Board member David Beard prepared a proposal for a series of MA/MS program profiles. The proposal is available online and can be shared with anyone who wishes to contribute to this initiative, as an author or as a special section editor.

Master's Consortium's status in the context of SIG/Standing Group policy

The group discussed the Consortium's intent to apply for Standing Group status with NCTE/CCCC. Applications are due to Chris Anson no later than 30 days after the conclusion of the Las Vegas convention.

Roles of the executive board and the co-chairs

The co-chairs are entering their third year, which means elections will be held at the annual meeting in Indianapolis. Anyone interested in being considered for the position should forward a statement of interest in the position (no more than 300 words), accounting for qualifications and vision for the Consortium to derek.mueller@emich.edu by January 15, 2014. Statements of

interest will be publicly available on the Consortium website for at least four weeks before the 2014 meeting in Indianapolis.

New business for 2013-2014

Addition of graduate student representative to Executive Board

Opportunity for technology liaison or web editor

The co-chairs reminded attendees that we are receptive to the addition of a graduate student representative to the Executive Board. Point of discussion: The two-year timeframe of most MA/MS programs may mean that this role is difficult to keep filled (e.g., first-year MA/MS students may not be interested in the role).

Possible initiatives to discuss Consulting/external review framework

Annual award (e.g., for course design)

Initiatives for 2013-2014 include articulating a consulting/external review framework that would be used as a resource and guide for MA/MS programs interested in program revisions, growth and development, or soliciting external review(s) from qualified, experience consultants.

Discussed: The scope of the review framework may extend to online and blended/hybrid curricula, specific courses, and program websites (e.g., providing a basic list of recommended information on MA/MS program websites).

The group also discussed as a way of raising the Consortium's profile an annual award focused on MA/MS course design. Several in attendance expressed interest in this project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. PST.