



# Master's Degree Consortium

of Writing Studies Specialists

## 2014 Annual Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

JW Marriott, Grand Ballroom IV, Third Floor, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Indianapolis, Ind.

I. Welcome and update on past year's activities (Derek Mueller, derek.mueller@emich.edu)

Standing Group Status – Approved on August 19, 2013, after one resubmit. Input from CCCC Officers included recommendation for more expansive voting mechanism (possibly online voting system for annual elections), elaboration and refinement of bylaws, and clearer definitions of EB roles.

We will create a Google Doc for EB review and revision of bylaws and role definitions in June 2014 (for three months). Online voting systems may be prohibitive in terms of infrastructure and related costs. We discussed looking into how the Doctoral Consortium handles officer/board rotations and leadership appointments. Voting will continue by paper ballot until we have a better alternative.

Old business, 2013-2014

Addition of graduate student representative to Executive Board

The position remains open. Discussions focused on the typical two-year timeframe for MA/MS programs and the challenges of involving an MA/MS student, considering they are always either entering or exiting a program. We also discussed the prospects of inviting a doctoral student to join the board. Discussion was generative but not decisive.

Opportunity for technology liaison or web editor (Jessie Miller, EMU, through 2015)

Miller will continue in the role for one year. Prior to the 2015 annual meeting, the Consortium will invite interest in a new technology liaison or web editor who would accept a one- or two-year term.

New business, 2014-2015

Program profile series

The group again discussed the proposal drafted by David Beard. Questions keyed on differentiation: how would this profile series meet a need different from what is already available in selected journals? We discussed a spectrum of profile needs, from small scale snapshots of existing programs to longer and more involved accounts of programs, curricula, and courses.

Consulting/external review framework

The group discussed developing a more explicit framework for support useful to new and emerging programs. In addition to providing a list of colleagues who work in MA/MS programs and who would be willing to take time for conversations about planning for and shaping programs, the Consortium would do well for its members to provide a simple statement of minimal expectations for web presence. That is, we discussed the value in a

Consortium-sponsored statement about the basic programmatic information that should be available on a program website. Such a document would provide advisory leverage for individual programs in discussions with local IT, administrators, and colleagues.

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

The Consortium did not make as much progress on the development of this award as previously planned. However, the annual award for course design is far enough along in its development that we fully expect it to be announced by Fall 2014 and awarded for the first time at the 2015 meeting. The description of the award, and the nomination and review process, are being handled by Tricia Serviss, Derek Mueller, and Jennifer Buckner.

## 2. Roles of the executive board and the co-chairs

The group agreed that rather than spending time in the meeting working on redefining the roles, the co-chairs and EB members would open a Google Doc and collaborate on a document that will improve role definition and put a finer point on bylaws.

## 3. Elections (ballot)

Elections were conducted by paper ballot, with Derek Mueller as non-voting election officer. The results were as follows:

Co-chairs

Drs. Rebecca Jackson and Eric Leake, Texas State U, 2014-2017 (3 yrs)

Executive Board

Dr. Stephanie Vie, U Central Florida, 2014-2017 (3 yrs)

Dr. Susan Wolff Murphy, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, 2014-2017 (3 yrs)

Dr. Nikki Caswell, East Carolina U, 2014-2016 (2 years; replaces Jackson on EB)

## 4. Acknowledgement of appreciation to term-ending board members and co-chairs:

André Buchenot, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, 2012-2014

Lanette Cadle, Missouri State University, 2012-2014

John S. Dunn, Jr., Eastern Michigan University, 2011-2014

Derek Mueller, Eastern Michigan University, 2011-2014

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. EDT. A leadership transition meeting followed from 7:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. EDT.