

the second part of the general education writing requirements (WRTG 1320) will also help with the quality of the writing component of the research papers. Stephanie Vanderslice presented a list of universities and colleges that teach Comp 2 in the Sophomore or Junior year. Stephanie is going to investigate institutions that have done this and report back to the committee next month on how faculty have responded to the change.

Kim Eskola asked if this change would make WRTG1320 more specifically address content from other courses.

Ellen noted that students chose their own topics based on whatever they were interested in. Some students found it very difficult to choose a topic because of various limitations in their educational experiences. Stephanie noted that the Perry survey provided a progression scale on where students were when they entered college and their progression as they continued to the sophomore year and beyond. These students tended to begin by accepting received knowledge instead of examining it for themselves through writing and then move to a more advanced stage of understanding truth.

Ed Powers thought that students should have the skills in the sophomore year when they are taking other courses where they must write papers. He noted that some students do have the skills to do research and some students still need the basic skills to write research papers. Ed indicated that the sophomore level courses in the sociology department required students to do a research paper.

It was brought up that the move could cause enrollment problems for other departments, as students who would have taken 1320 must find other courses. This needs to be addressed. Also, there needs to be some assurance that students will actually take Composition in the sophomore year and not put it off.

It was also brought up that faculty members help to make students transition from high school to college smoother, especially in the writing classes. If this transition can be positive then students will not have such a negative view of writing.

The proposal was tabled so that the writing department could provide more information about other institutions of higher education that have incorporated this idea into their system and so that the Council of Deans could be asked about potential scheduling problems and the question of ensuring that the course be taken in the sophomore year.

New Business: there was no new business since this meeting was limited to the discussion of the writing proposal. Conrad Shumaker encouraged members to attend the GED meeting for all instructors that teach a General Education classes that will be held in the Lewis Science Center on February 4, 2010.

IV. Adjournment: Conrad Shumaker adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Kathy French