

## WPA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past December at the MLA convention in Chicago marked WPA's first anniversary and fulfillment of the charge made to the steering committee a year ago. We exist as a formal organization with bylaws and a working structure; we have a newsletter; and we have elected officers now beginning a three year term. I shall serve as president; Win Horner (University of Missouri) as vice-president; Joe Comprone (University of Louisville) as treasurer; Larry Kasden (J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College) as secretary. The rest of the steering committee will serve as the executive board for staggered terms. And with this issue of the Newsletter, I'm pleased to announce that Ken Bruffee (CUNY, Brooklyn) will assume the editorship, taking over from Bob Farrell (Cornell).

Our plans for this year are big. We're working to establish a Clearinghouse which would respond quickly to your request either for data on other writing programs or for accurate, timely descriptions of course content and sequences on other campuses. Although the NEH-Iowa University project is an important first step in assisting new administrators, we'd like to supplement that approach with seminars and workshops of two or three days' duration for those institutions that cannot spare their program directors for a full term. We're eager, too, to establish a system of advisory teams which could visit campuses by invitation and could evaluate existing structures. Finally, we aim to produce in-depth studies on issues in writing program administration.

These goals will, of course, take money, and we have begun exploring opportunities with granting agencies. Without making any definite commitment, Exxon Educational Foundation has shown serious interest in some of our plans. We will continue, of course, to develop as many methods as we can to carry out our goals.

In all our efforts to call attention to the needs of WPA's and to the nature of their tasks and responsibilities, we aim to work alongside of the MLA's Teaching of Writing Division and the CCCC. We're trying to gather the various groups that represent program heads and will at the CCCC meeting in Denver request one session to share ideas for future action. I hope to see you there — but in the meantime if you think of anything WPA should be attempting, please write to me or to one of the other officers. We want the organization to do what you want it to do.

Let's hear from you!

Sincerely,

Harvey S. Wiener  
CUNY LaGuardia