

Writing Program Administration

*Journal of the
Council of Writing Program Administrators*

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and spring—by the Council of Writing Program Administration.*

Council of Writing Program Administrators

The Council of Writing Program Administrators is a national association of college and university faculty who serve or have served as directors of first year composition or writing programs, coordinators of writing centers and writing workshops, chairpersons and members of writing-program-related committees, or in similar administrative capacities. The Council of Writing Program Administrators is an affiliate of the Association of American Colleges and the Modern Language Association.

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Author's Guide

WPA: Writing Program Administration publishes articles and essays concerning the organization, administration, practices, and aims of college and university writing programs. Possible topics include the education and support of writing teachers; the intellectual and administrative work of WPAs; the situation of writing programs within both academic institutions and broader contexts; the programmatic implications of current theories, technologies, and research; relationships between WPAs and other administrators and between writing and other academic programs; placement; assessment; and the professional status of WPAs.

The previous list is meant to be suggestive, not exhaustive, but contributions must be appropriate to the interests and concerns of those who administer writing programs. The editors welcome empirical research (quantitative as well as qualitative), historical research, and theoretical, essayistic, or reflective pieces.

The length of submissions should be approximately 2000 to 5000 words, although the journal occasionally will publish shorter or longer pieces when the subject matter warrants. Articles should be suitably documented using the current MLA Style Manual. Please submit three copies of manuscripts, with the author identified only on a separate cover letter. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a copy returned. Submissions are anonymously reviewed by the Editorial Board. The editors aspire to respond within three months after the receipt of the submission.

WPA publishes reviews of books related to writing programs and their administration. Publishers are invited to send appropriate professional books to Dennis Lynch, who assigns reviews.

Authors whose works are accepted for publication will be asked to submit final versions in both print and electronic form. Articles should be saved on 3.5 inch disks as text files (files using the extension .txt). Tables should be saved in the program in which they were produced; authors should indicate program type on the disk. Illustrations should be submitted as camera-ready-copy. Authors will also be asked to submit a 100-word biography for inclusion in the "Notes on Contributors" section of the journal.

Relevant announcements and calls for papers are also acceptable. Announcement deadlines are: Fall/Winter issue, October 15; Spring issue, March 15.

Advertisers should contact Marguerite Helmers for deadlines and publication rates.

Address articles and editorial correspondence to Dennis Lynch, Co-Editor *WPA*, Humanities, Michigan Technological University, 1400 Townsend Drive, Houghton, MI 49931. E-mail: dalynch@mtu.edu.

Address advertising issues to Marguerite Helmers, Co-Editor, *WPA*, Department of English, 800 Algoma Boulevard, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901. E-mail: helmers@uwosh.edu.

Call for the 1999 WPA Research Grant Proposals

The Research Grant Committee of the Council of Writing Program Administrators invites proposals to research issues and practices in writing program administration. Maximum awards of \$2000 may be given; average awards are \$1000. Only WPA members are eligible.



A complete proposal will

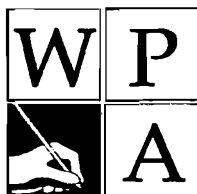
- explain the project and how it will address issues of common concern to WPAs;
- outline how the project will proceed;
- explain how the results will be shared professionally. Note that grantees are expected to submit articles resulting from the research to *WPA: Writing Program Administration* for first consideration;
- provide a budget that is realistic, detailed, and specific.

The descriptive proposal should be no longer than three pages, with a separate budget page.

Because proposals will be blind reviewed, please **do not identify yourself** or your institution in the project description. Include a cover letter that gives the names of all investigators. **Four copies** must be sent to Christine Farris at the address below no later than 1 February 1999. Winners will be announced at the 1999 WPA breakfast in Atlanta.



Christine Farris
Chair, WPA Research Grant Committee
Department of English
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405



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Council of Writing Program Administrators

Letter from the Editors

Needless to say, we are excited about becoming the editors of *Writing Program Administration*. As Doug Hesse observed, it is appropriate that we follow Jeanne Gunner's guest volume on collaborative writing program administration with our own collaboration as editors. We believe we have a special opportunity to contribute to an organization that has contributed so much to our professional lives and we look forward to making the most of it. We thank the WPA Executive Council for selecting us and we thank the Editorial Board—and new Board members—for their advice and extra hard work to help us complete our first issue. No acknowledgments would be complete without extending our gratitude to Doug Hesse for all he has done and continues to do to make the editorial transition smooth for us and for those whose scholarly work has been caught between editors. We have great respect for what Doug accomplished as editor and we only hope to continue in the same way to strengthen the journal's reach and focus.

What possibilities do we see for the journal's future? Here is what we proposed to the Executive Council:

Writing Program Administration provides a forum for research and scholarship that specifically addresses or grows out of the work of WPAs. In the past, this research has included historical work, archival research, empirical studies, and some conceptual formulations of power as they pertain to the position of the WPA. Although we would continue to encourage researchers to submit historical considerations of the position of writing programs in the academy, we believe that there are significant contemporary issues surrounding writing programs that deserve discussion in the journal. Construing the work of the WPA to be essentially intellectual work, we will publish articles that deal theoretically and practically with the very real political curricular and economic issues facing writing programs: hiring and training WPAs; hiring writing instructors; developing the first-year composition requirement; integrating writing into the general education program; tracing relationships of course materials to intellectual property laws; and learning the invisible power structures of the university, including how money moves, how programs publicize themselves, how program directors

work with affirmative action policies, how programs strengthen their connections to writing centers, ESL and modern language programs, and community education and action groups.

We have also reconsidered the look and layout of the journal to mark it with our own personalities and vision, not without some hesitancy, though. At the last WPA conference, Ken Bruffee explained to us that the original design of the journal, its deep red-colored cover and layout, was intended to invoke the feel of our working predecessors from the Federal Writers Project and the Works Project Administration, "the other WPA from the 1930s." We have attempted to return to the original colors red and white, while establishing an open contemporary design that, with luck, will signal a bridge from the past to the twenty-first century. Our thanks go to A to Z Printing in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin for their design help and patience.

Finally, we would like to keep open as a long-term goal to extend the journal internationally, both in its subscription and in its publishings. We say this while recognizing that we have much national work to do: opening the journal to people involved with literacy services and people working to teach writing in hostels and prisons across the country, people whose work, interests, and needs parallel those of writing program administrators and personnel.

Marguerite Helmers

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

helmers@uwosh.edu

Dennis A. Lynch

Michigan Technological University

dalynch@mtu.edu

Call for Proposals ***The Interests of the WPA***

The WPA Summer Conference, July 15-18, 1999
Purdue University, West Lafayette Indiana
Irwin Weiser and Shirley Rose, Local Arrangements Co-Chairs

Proposals are welcome on any aspect of writing program administration, but special focuses will encompass the following questions:

- Whose interests do - or should- writing programs serve? How might WPAs respond to directives about the nature of courses or programs, enrollments or requirements, or budgets?
- How should writing programs be situated within departments, institutions, the academic landscape, the larger culture?
- What administrative and/or personal strategies foster a healthy balance between the administrative work we do and the other facets of our lives?
- What problems or initiatives should WPA pursue? What positions should the Council take, what research should the Council sponsor, and what practices should the Council adopt?

Inquiries to Doug Hesse at (309) 438-3667, ddhesse@ilstu.edu
Full conference description at
www.cas.ilstu.edu/english/Hesse/annwkshp.htm

One page proposals by 20 March 1999 to:

Doug Hesse, 1999 WPA Program Chair
4240 Department of English
Illinois State University
Normal, IL 61790-4240