Where should WPA’s focus be in the next year? Two years? Five years?

In today’s climate, the Council of Writing Program Administrator and its members face many opportunities (and potential challenges). Part of CWPA’s job is to act as a resource for members – but we need your help to direct our efforts.

WPA Directions lets you, the membership, help focus WPA’s efforts for 2009 and beyond.

At the 2009 conference, you can help WPA chart a course for the future in three ways.

1. Submit ideas via the WPA Directions postcards in this folder. After each plenary and throughout the day on Friday and Saturday to record flashes of insight and possible issues for WPA’s focus. Submit the WPA Directions postcard to the box on the registration table, or leave them with a conference organizer or WPA Executive Board member.

2. Provide feedback on and contribute to the tag cloud(s). On Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, we’ll post a conference tag cloud in the registration area (at the top of the escalators on the second floor) to let you know what issues are emerging for WPA members. Using post-it notes available at the registration table, write back to the ideas on the cloud. Agree with some of the ideas there? Say so! Think something should be positioned differently? Write it down!

3. Attend “Meet the Executive Board” sessions and share your ideas. There are three of these sessions (check your program for times and rooms) throughout the conference. Stop in and share your ideas for WPA’s focus and future directions.

4. Attend Sunday’s Town Hall Meeting. We’ll use the issues that have emerged from member input to focus the meeting and decide which of those that have emerged we would like to take up in the following year, identify projects based on those issues to tackle, and identify strategies and timelines for completing those projects. (You’ll find a preview of the plan for this work, which will be facilitated by an Executive Board member, on the opposite side of this flier.)
After we gather at Sunday’s Town Hall meeting, we'll invite attendees to sit at issue-focused tables for discussion. CWPA Executive Board members will facilitate discussion at each table using these questions as a guideline. The goal of the discussions is to identify specific issues that can help focus CWPA’s work, and help you to think about ways to get involved to work on things important for you!

1. Table participants (names and e-mail addresses):

2. One-three word summary of table focus. (e.g., “assessment.”)

3. Talk with others at your table and identify commonalities among what makes you all interested in this table focus. Then, write a one-sentence description of how this issue applies to multiple writing instructors/programs (rather than just one institution/instructor). (For example: “There is a need to make sure that assessment is based in the principles and values of composition and rhetoric.”)

4. Once you’ve articulated a broad description of your focus, identify three possible issues within your focus that CWPA might take up. These should be small enough to tackle in 1-3 years. (For example: “Provide access to model assessments”; “Develop a site where WPAs can find strategies for talking to others on our campuses about assessment”; “Develop a position statement on assessment that summarizes composition and rhetoric principles and values.”)
   a. 
   b. 
   c.

Once you’ve identified the projects, rank them in order of importance:

5. Working with issue you’ve identified as most important, identify:
   a. What information do we need to understand this issue?
   b. Of this information, what do we already have, and where is that information?