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September 26, 2006

To:

From: Shelley Reid (*George Mason University*)

RE: Composition Program Year-end Report, 2005-2006

Part 1: Composition Program by the numbers

A. Courses taught and students enrolled

Sections Taught	<i>Engl100</i>	<i>Engl101</i>	<i>Engl302</i>	<i>...302B</i>	<i>...302H</i>	<i>...302N</i>	<i>...302S</i>	Totals
<i>Summer 2005</i>	0	5	42	13	9	9	11	47
<i>Fall 2005</i>	3	88*	87	31	21	13	22	175
<i>Spring 2006</i>	3	20	93	32	22	16	23	116
2005-2006	6	113	222	76	52	38	56	341

* Eight of these were Mason Topics courses

Students Enrolled	<i>Engl100</i>	<i>Engl101</i>	<i>Engl302</i>	Totals
<i>Summer 2005</i>	0	86	183	269
<i>Fall 2005</i>	60	1632	1782	3506
<i>Spring 2006</i>	59	359	1868	2299
2005-2006	119	2090	3865	6074

B. Exemption Exams

Exemptions	<i>Attempted</i>	<i>Passed Portfolio</i>	<i>Passed Exam</i>	Percent Passing	Attempted '04-'05	Passes '04-'05
<i>English 101</i>	262	N/A	64	24%	185	87 (47%)
<i>English 302</i>	121	88 (73%)	58*	48%*	65	42 (65%)

*English 302 exemption applicants must first pass the portfolio review and then pass the written exam; 10 exams remain to be taken as of June 2006. The overall pass rate is expected to be closer to 55% (with about 75% of those who pass the portfolio passing the exam afterward).

All exams were coordinated, proctored, and reported on by

C. Sections taught by faculty type

# of sections taught by...	Teaching Assts.	Adjunct faculty	Term faculty	T/T faculty	Sections
100/101	33 (28%)	49 (41%)	34 (29%)	3 (3%)	119
302	0	113 (51%)	91 (41%)	18 (8%)	222
TOTALS	33 (10%)	162 (48%)	125 (39%)	21 (6%)	341

Part 2: Summary of 2005-2006 Activities

A. Faculty Development Workshops Presented

- Teaching portfolio development workshops (4)
- Grading workshop (designed and facilitated by members of the Composition Instruction Committee)
- English 302S and 302B workshops (2)
- ...

B. New program elements or activities this year

Curriculum development

- Revised learning goals for English 101 were implemented
- Revised learning goals for English 302, along with Faculty Guides for each version, were created

Faculty development

- Composition website was expanded...
- Support for new TAs was expanded...
- Fall Orientation was expanded to two days ...
- ...

Program development

- Composition Instruction Committee was inaugurated, designed a survey and ran a workshop
- Guidelines for English 302 portfolio exemption were updated; an option for online portfolios was created
- ...

Miscellaneous

- Several dozen English 302 students participated in a pilot of the new ETS online Technology Skills Assessment program
- ...

C. Grants awarded

\$25,000 from the College of Arts and Sciences Technology Across the Curriculum program, to support eight teachers and three peer-mentors from composition for one year as they develop and share technology-goal-related pedagogies for English 302, in preparation for wider integration of TAC learning goals for 302 in 2009.

D. Faculty changes of note...

E. Continuing activities

- Orientation and professional development day for all faculty just prior to Fall Semester
- Review of 101 and 302 syllabi, posted and archived online
- Monthly professional development meetings for TAs new-to-teaching during Fall Semester

- Review of applications for transfer credit
- ...

F. *Activities planned but not completed in 05-06*

- Development of workshops regarding the new SAT test
- Hiring of a second professional/technical writing faculty member
- ...

Part 3: Plans for 2006-2007

New faculty: We will seek to hire three tenure-line composition faculty...

Faculty development

- The hybrid-302 working group will continue piloting and assessing course curricula, and consult with faculty from literature working on hybrid or DL pedagogies
- Orientation activities will expand to include a syllabus-consultation day in mid-August
- ...

Program development

- Composition Committee will begin developing strategies for program assessment, particularly at the 101 level
- Additional inquiries will be made into...

Part 4: Challenges and concerns

Faculty economics: ...

TA workload: ...

Computer classroom access: ...

Exemption options: ...