MPA

a newsletter for writing program administrators

Vol. I No. I March 1977

This first issue has been produced and distributed by Jackson Community College, Jackson, Michigan 49201

This is the first issue of what we hope will be a quarterly newsletter written by and for those who administer writing programs. In order to continue operations, we are in need of your support--moral, social, and pecuniary. We have set the subscription price at five dollars a year; please forward your checks to:

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(NOTE: All assignments are pro tempore)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Newsletter is intended to serve the needs of all those directly concerned with the administration of writing programs in the field of postsecondary education. Whether we teach at two or four year colleges, at technical institutes or at schools for the liberal arts, we are faced with common problems. Our house style reflects this; titles are avoided, except as necessary for mail getting through to the right person. Staffing of courses, meeting the needs of students at all levels and gaining adequate funding from internal and external sources are some of the major issues raised by those who attended the MLA meeting in New York. Most of all, the problem of isolation is acute, both within our own schools, and among us all. The concern for those who packed the meeting halls at the Americana Hotel during the convention was great, and their desire both for a steering committee and some organ of communication was strong.

At the meeting of program administrators, a steering committee began a process of self-selection; Harvey Wiener reports on the state of that group below. A research group, and an editorial staff for the <u>Newsletter</u> were also chosen. Clearly, we have something of a problem of priorities, and it may seem a bit unusual for a newsletter to be issued before the structures within the writing group of MLA are fully established. This present issue has been produced as a kind of call for advice, and a provisional statement of intent. It is issued only after consultations with the steering committee. Here is what we think are some of the appropriate activities for a newsletter:

- It should serve as an organ of expression for the steering committee and such committees and sub-groups of the writing section of MLA as are established;
- The interests of writing program administrators should be represented. These views will generally appear in a regular feature, <u>Editorial</u> Comment;
- 3. The Newsletter should allow swift communication. The Editorial Board feels that quality publication will serve this need, and that a "no frills" photo-off-set IBM typed format will be adequate. We need information, not glossy paper and expensive production!
- 4. We should have a regular feature on news of interest to writing program directors. This should probably be a series of one-liners, with the information base being provided by us, by a survey of the field, and by some active reportorial work. URGENT: Tim Donovan will handle this column--please get information to him. (see masthead)
- 5. We should have a way of sharing information about research, successes, and even failures in our field. The Editorial Board feels that a notes and queries format will best suit this need, with short, pointed and

informal communications rather than polished final productions as our goal. However, we are open to suggestions. Please forward materials in this area to Bob Farrell (see masthead).

6. Since funding is critical for all of us, and since honest and free sharing of information on this question will help us all towards success, some kind of regular feature on who is, and who is not, funding writing programs and some guidelines of the funding bodies seems essential. We might also consider sharing information on our problems and successes in gaining internal funding as well.

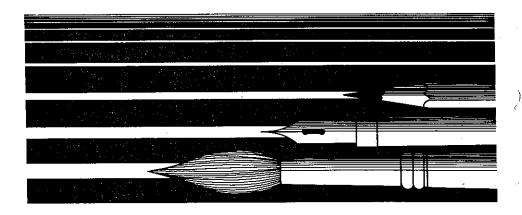
NEXT ISSUE--brief outline of situation in funding.

Please forward tidbits or hints to Bob Farrell or Tim Donovan. We must help one another!

The publication schedule for the Newsletter is as follows:

Mid-March Mid-June Mid-September Mid-December

Please get materials coming on news items to Tim Donovan, on notes and queries to Bob Farrell. We want a hefty June issue! To make sure there is a good chance of seeing your material in good time, please submit items at least six weeks before publication date. We cannot guarantee publication of all material, but we will do our best.



A National Handbook on Writing Programs

It is clear that we need such a document; it is also clear that if it is not as complete and as comprehensive as possible, we will not gain much from it. Therefore, it makes sense to move with care on gathering information. Peg Furcron has produced a draft questionnaire; please comment on its usefulness. Unless a questionnaire provides the information you want, it is useless. Please forward comments to Peg Furcron in order to help her and the Resource Committee (and of course the Steering Committee) formulate a questionnaire which will be of greatest use to all of us.

DRAFT - FOR CONSIDERATION ONLY

Organization of Writing Program Administrators - RESOURCES QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME	TITLE
INSTITUTION	
ADDRESS	PHONE NO. (incl. area code)
HOME ADDRESS	PHONE NO.
Number of students in your program	Number of facultyFTPT
Brief description of the nature and goals of your program:	
Sources of outside funding (past or present): In the entries below, please be selective, specific, and succinct so that we can develop a workable cross indexed file. Aspects of your program which you would recommend to other schools (consider curriculum, teacher and tutor training, relationships with other disciplines, methodology, etc.)	
Aspects of other programs which you would like to hear more about:	
In what areas, if any, could your program use a consultant?	
In what areas would you or others on your s	taff serve as consultants?

Writing Program Administrators' List with additional names, as of 1 March, 1977

NOTE: This list is in the main a repeat version of that produced by David Sloane. PLEASE NOTE: We know that it is lacking, and we know that people in the profession will understand that if they have not been included because of haste of production. Please let us have names and addresses of people who should be on the list; we will publish an addendum in the second issue of WPA, and revise the list in full sometime in 1977.

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Partial Cross-Reference List

Urban-Public State & Large Public-Supported Bartholomae Algeo Brereton Ardinger Cumming Atthowe Furcron **Baubles** Hoddeson Bruffee Hyman Burt Jackson Corbett Larson Edwards Lyons Foote McQuade Gibson Phelps Grayson Paspa Hicks Richardson Hirsch Todd Horner Katz Kearns Urban-Private Kittrell Barlaz Lenehan Bogle Lindemann Comprone Lloyd-Jones Costello Ludwig Crosby MacDonald Dobbie Miller Donovan Park Dorenkamp Raymond Hartwell Reed Penfield Ross Pulleyn Salter Sloane Seko Teich Trimmer Community Colleges Wiener Cummins Zietlow Edge (*see also Urban-Public) Joyce Kasden O'Keefe Private Colleges Bien Pauli Dew Vieth Krishnappa Maimon Private Universities Byker Collins (caveat emptor: there may Douglas Elias be discrepancies on this list) Farrell Moore No1d

Reznik

(*see also Urban-Private)

Editorial Comment The Steering Committee Harvey S. Wiener

After the burst of excitement which led to the formation of the Council of Writing Program Administrators, the Steering Committee set to work on five major areas which will help us formalize our association. Professors Crosby and Comprone are exploring membership possibilities: Who shall belong? How shall we arrange membership? Professors Kasden and Bartholomae will suggest a structure for the association, taking into account the needs for officers and geographical representation. Professor Raymond and I are working on the projected goals of the association, taking into account needs for realization. For the Newsletter, Professors Raspa and Maimon are the Steering Committee's liaison with the editorial board. Professors McQuade and Horner are exploring the kinds of materials we need to gather and to exchange and are working with the people who volunteered at the Americana in New York for our Instructional Resource Committee.

In Kansas City each group will present a brief statement of its thinking. We will discuss all the suggestions, and we'll have between then and the Chicago MLA meeting to refine our notions so that we can present a basic structure for adoption. At that point we ought to elect officers and start moving!

It's exciting for all of us to be part of this thing as it grows. To Ken Bruffee, for his sense of the need for this association and his willingness to pursue its possibilities, we owe a vote of thanks.

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THE CLASS

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