

Lakehead

UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen Roche, Secretary of Senate
FROM: David Tranter, Chair
Senate Academic Committee
RE: Report of the Senate Academic Committee (SAC)
DATE: February 18, 2009

Please accept my report as Chair in respect of the regular meeting held on Friday, February 13, 2009

Writing Across the Curriculum - Final Report of the WAC Planner

Under section I.B.3.d. of the Academic Plan 2006, the Senate Academic Committee was charged with recommending to Senate, what, if anything, should be done to improve student writing performance across the disciplines at Lakehead University.

In March, 2008, the Committee adopted a plan to develop a Writing Centre. Following a call for expressions of interest, Dr. Scott Pound, of the Department of English was appointed as Writing Centre Planner, for the period June 7, 2008 through December 31, 2008. His duties were to research, plan and outline, for the Senate Academic Committee, an Action Plan for the establishment of a Writing Centre at Lakehead University in 2009.

Pursuant to his terms of reference, Dr. Pound provided a status report to the Committee in October, 2008, which included a summary of research conducted to date and a comparison of Canadian Writing Centre models. Dr. Pound discussed in detail a skills-based, teaching and learning model, which would be available for both students and faculty. Dr. Pound also provided an outline of staffing and resource methods.

On February 13, 2009, Dr. Pound presented his final Report and Action Plan to the committee respecting the establishment of a Writing Centre at Lakehead University. Dr. Pound's report proposes that the Centre be established in combination with a WAC program.

There was unanimous support for both the establishment of a Writing Centre and an across curriculum writing requirement.

The following motions were carried:

1. The Senate Academic Committee formally recommends a university priority toward demonstrated written and oral communication skills through existing and proposed initiatives such as the Instructional Development Centre, Writing Across the Curriculum Courses and the Writing Centre.
2. The Senate Academic Committee endorses a Degree Level Expectation that specifies written and oral communication skills.
3. The Senate Academic Committee accepts the recommendation that a Writing Centre be established at Lakehead University and further recommends that a sub-committee be created to clarify the budget for the Centre and report back to the committee at its next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
D. Tranter, Chair