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DATE: September 27, 2007

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RE: Parent's Association Grant Application

The University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UAWC) has been operated since the fall of 1991 by the Department of English to serve the entire university community. Currently, the Writing Center offers free tutoring in writing each semester to approximately 4500 university undergraduate and graduate students in all disciplines. The Writing Center draws from the expertise in the nationally acclaimed Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English (RCTE) Program and the Writing Program, both housed in the Department of English. The faculty in these programs provide the strong core that conducts research in the teaching of writing, publishes widely on all aspects of composition, develops and implements writing curricula, and trains graduate students to teach composition at The University of Arizona. Traditionally, three graduate student coordinators and one faculty coordinator train peer undergraduate tutors in a formal course (English 393) and coordinate all facets of the Writing Center. In 2006-2007, the administration of the Writing Center has shifted to the Office of the Vice Provost for Instruction.

The Writing Center is already a successful program. Despite consistent, historic budget threats, the Writing Center has carried out its core mission and more in an admirable way, enhancing students' critical thinking and writing competencies as well as helping them to develop new skills to use in future writing contexts. Furthermore, the Writing Center has worked to address the needs of all UA students—representing a variety of majors, levels of academic preparation, courses, academic standing and progress, writing challenges and projects.

Abstract

The UAWC seeks funds to upgrade its classroom space in order to accomplish the following: one, to reach more students than is currently possible by offering weekly, drop-in writing workshops during peak semester usage periods; and two, to develop and offer a series of monthly workshops that focus on integration of specific technologies and writing projects. These workshops will extend the UAWC's services to a greater number of UA students and will provide the UAWC with the resources necessary to foster students' technological literacy and to teach students to integrate technology into their writing processes. By fostering UA students' technological literacy and writing, these workshops will equip students with the ability to communicate in the technological contexts of our increasingly interconnected world. If selected for funding, the UAWC is poised to quickly implement this program, offering workshops to students as early as Spring Semester 2008.

Proposal

The University of Arizona Writing Center's (UAWC) mission is to provide service to the entire UA campus; to accomplish this mission, we must continually develop innovative methods to make our support more accessible. Given the limitations of our current resources, the UAWC is unable to serve between 10 and 30 students a day during peak weeks of the semester. By obtaining much needed instructional technology, the UAWC could alleviate some of this problem, and more effectively meet and even expand its mission and range of students served. Equipping our UAWC classroom with instructional technology would allow us to expand our student outreach through the offering of group writing workshops focused on assisting larger numbers of students in developing a newly crucial skill: technological literacy, the writing with and for technology.

Our proposal asks for materials to upgrade the UAWC classroom for two purposes: one, to offer weekly, drop-in workshops during our peak use periods in order to serve more students; and two, to develop and offer a series of monthly workshops geared towards teaching students to utilize available technologies in their writing projects.

One of the most obvious challenges facing UA students is learning to use technology effectively as part of their writing practices. The Kellogg Commission report projects that most students will engage in some distance learning that includes the composing of texts at a distance—most likely as part of their lifelong learning or job enrichment and retraining. While UA students have been exposed to technology and many utilize technologies for social purposes, many need to enhance their use of technology to communicate effectively in the academic setting and beyond. Professional use of email, instant messaging, text messaging, online search engines, and data storage and management are integral to a range of academic and professional experiences. Therefore, students need support to use technology in useful ways related to these forms of writing practice.

As the UA implements wireless access across the campus, the UAWC is positioned to help students integrate technology into their writing processes, recognizing that teaching students to communicate effectively involves not only writing and verbal skills but also technological literacy. This new literacy will give students the ability to communicate in our increasingly cross-cultural and digitized world. It will also impact how UA community members use technology in their careers and personal lives. To keep the UAWC viable within the evolution of UA's campus culture, it is imperative for us to have access to the instructional technologies that students are being asked to work with and for as they hone their writing abilities.

Part I

With a well-equipped classroom, the UAWC can offer weekly, first-come, first-served group tutoring sessions, enabling us to serve more students than we can by solely relying on individual sessions. These sessions will be facilitated by an experienced tutor or one of the UAWC's coordinators and will focus on students' concerns with current writing projects, employing a collaborative, peer-learning approach to improving writing.

Part II

In order to meet the needs of students for instruction in the area of technology and writing, we will develop and offer regular workshops that teach the effective use of technology as part of writing practices across the disciplines. Workshops such as these, geared towards helping students use technology to communicate more effectively both in and out of the classroom, are not offered by any other campus entities (i.e., Writing Skills Improvement, OSCR, Career Center, University Learning Center). The proposed, on-going series of workshops will respond to particular student needs for deep instruction in, and hands-on experiences with, specific technologies and writing projects. Possible topics include the following:

- Tailoring job application materials for different audiences and online job search engines
- Creating effective personal statements for graduate school applications
- Writing in the Sciences/Writing in the Disciplines
- Uses for mobile technologies, presentation and publishing software for writing projects
- Writing with and for the web

Outcomes Assessment

The UAWC and the Writing Program will measure the outcomes of our workshop offerings by two means: one, data will be collected and analyzed regarding the numbers of students who utilize the workshops, including majors and colleges, years in school, and degrees sought; and two, the creation of evaluation forms to analyze student satisfaction with the content, format, presentation, and length of the workshops. A report will compile this data at the pilot's end, making recommendations for the future of this project.

PARENT ASSOCIATION GRANT APPLICATION

P.I.s Anne-Marie Hall, Chris Hamel

Funding Period: 11/01/07 - 6/30/08

Name:	Title:	FTE:	Salary:	ERE:	Total:	Department Contribution	Grant
Personnel:							
Hamel, Chris	Project Coordinator	0.25	\$ 7,452	\$ 2,042	\$ 9,494	\$ 9,494	
Minnix, Christopher	Tech Specialist	0.10	\$ 2,191	\$ 600	\$ 2,791	\$ 2,791	
Robbins, Christopher	Systems Programmer	0.10	\$ 1,038	\$ 43	\$ 1,081	\$ 1,081	
			\$ 10,681	\$ 2,685	\$ 13,365	\$ 13,365	\$ -
Operations:							
			Cost per Unit	Tax @ 7.6%	Total:		
1 Smart board			\$ 3,299	\$ 251	\$ 3,550		\$ 3,550
1 ELMO			\$ 2,000	\$ 152	\$ 2,152		\$ 2,152
1 Screen			\$ 430	\$ 33	\$ 463		\$ 463
2 Gateway Laptops			\$ 3,200	\$ 243	\$ 3,443		\$ 3,443
2 Lines Ethernet Installation			\$ 800	\$ -	\$ 800		\$ 800
2 Wireless Access Point			\$ 3,600	\$ 274	\$ 3,874		\$ 3,874
Photocopying			\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500		\$ 500
Printing & Publications			\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	1,000	\$ -
Software			\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000
Supplies			\$ 1,500	\$ 114	\$ 1,614		\$ 1,614
					\$ 18,395	\$ 1,000	\$ 17,395
					\$ 31,760	\$ 14,365	\$ 17,395