

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY  
Academic Senate

**Resolution to Establish a Graduate Writing Proficiency Examination (GWPE) Revision Task Force**

#25-09/10-APC – April 27, 2010

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University recommends that a GWPE Revision Task Force be formed to assess current student writing competence and examine and possibly revise the GWPE. Task force membership will include one faculty member of the Academic Policies Committee, the director of the GWPE program, a faculty GWPE advisory Board member, the campus Assessment Director, the Vice Provost, a student representative appointed by AS, and a professional staff/faculty member selected by the Dean of Students to represent Student Support Services/Learning Center; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Humboldt State University suggests that the task force consider the use of the following methods for evaluating current student writing competence: assess a random sample of upper division writing samples from required senior capstone courses, utilize assessment efforts currently underway in departments, and mine institutional data; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That if the assessment of current writing competence conducted by the task force suggests that students attending senior capstone courses are not writing at an upper division college level, then a revised instrument, structure or process will be developed to assess college level writing in a manner that ensures a clear linkage between the exam and faculty expectations of competent college writing; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That the GWPE Revision Task Force will report their findings and recommendations to the Academic Senate's Academic Policies Committee during the first week of April 2011.

***Rationale:*** *There is a contradiction between the near universal passing rate of students taking the GWPE (94% between 2006-2008) and the commonly expressed concerns of faculty regarding the lack of competent writing by students in completing coursework. It appears that one of the following conditions exists:*

- *the GWPE does not measure college writing competence as defined by faculty in their lament about student performance*
- *the standards for passing the GWPE or too low to ensure that all graduates are writing at an upper division level of college writing as required by EO665*
- *the concerns expressed about student writing are not a valid reflection of student competence.*

*The GWPE Revision Task Force will attempt to determine which of these conditions exist and propose steps to the Academic Policies Committee to remedy the situation.*

PASSED Unanimously – April 27, 2010 – Academic Senate  
APPROVED – May 10, 2010 – President Richmond