

To: Chris Anson, President, Council of Writing Program Administrators

From: Dee James, UNC Asheville; Meg Morgan and Greg Wickliff, UNC Charlotte; Tim Peeples, Barbara Gordon, Iris Chapman, and Michael Strickland, Elon University; Jane Stephens, High Point University

Date: July 2003

Subject: Proposal for Affiliate Status

On behalf of writing program administrators representing the 16 state campuses of the University of North Carolina, several private universities and colleges in North Carolina, and Clemson University in South Carolina, we are applying for official affiliate status with the national Council of Writing Program Administrators. We ask to be placed on the Executive Board agenda at the July 2003 meeting.

Since fall 1999, writing program administrators from campuses of the University of North Carolina system and several private universities have been meeting to discuss issues common among us. Our first meeting in Chapel Hill in September 1999 was called by Dr. Marsha Lee Holmes, WPA at Western Carolina University and Dr. Meg Morgan, WPA at UNC Charlotte (who met for the first time at CCCCs in Atlanta at the WPA breakfast). We held our second meeting the next fall at UNC Charlotte, the third a year later at UNC Greensboro, and the fourth fall 2003 at UNC Asheville. At this last meeting, we invited a representative from Clemson University in South Carolina. This range of geographical locations and types of institutions reflects our interest in discussing common concerns and issues.

Our proposal demonstrates our willingness to adhere to the "Guidelines for Affiliate Organizations" established by the national CWPA, which we have organized according to those guidelines.

1. "Proposed affiliates must demonstrate a commitment to the formation and sustenance of the affiliate." As we mention above, WPAs from several NC state universities have been meeting since 1999 at different locations in North Carolina. While not all 16 campuses are represented at each meeting, most institutions are invited. In addition, representatives from private institutions have attended over the last four years: Duke University, Mars Hill College, and Elon College.

These meetings have resulted in an investigation of non-tenure track faculty (NNT) at the state universities (a study done by Dr. Erika Lindemann at UNC Chapel Hill in 2000); we have also shared information about transfer credit and learned about changes in curriculum that will affect students who move from institution to institution within the state.

2. All affiliate officers will hold dues-paid membership in the national Council of Writing Program Administrators. If this proposal is approved by the national WPA, members of the Carolinas WPA Affiliate will elect members of the Executive Board on September 12, 2003 at the meeting at NC State University in Raleigh. At the present time, the proposed affiliate includes members of and leadership in the national WPA.

The official structure will include the following six members of an Executive Board: Chair, Vice-Chair, Past-Chair, Treasurer/Secretary, Nominations Coordinator, and Communications Coordinator. We will create two additional positions, one to create and maintain a website and another to do membership outreach. A major task of the Nominations Coordinator is to ensure diverse representation on the Executive Board.

3. Affiliates must present a clear plan for the organization, which must not conflict with the WPA Constitution. If we receive a go-ahead from the national WPA, we will draft a more complete plan for the affiliate group. Meanwhile, our current plan, discussed at the May 2003 meeting, looks like this:

Membership: Leaders of this group will invite all writing teachers from public and private colleges and universities, including community colleges, from North and South Carolina to be members. Membership will include those who teach first-year writing as well as those who teach advanced and professional writing; it will also include administrators of writing centers and writing across the curriculum programs.

Goals. The goals for our affiliate will be the following:

- **To reach out and to bring together teachers from diverse campuses.** The public universities of North and South Carolina range in size, location, and mission. They include several Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The private institutions and community colleges in both states are even more diverse in affiliation, mission and student body. Outreach will be the goal of the regional conference in 2004.
- **To acknowledge the work of WPAs and writing teachers.**
- **To articulate a more complex and clearer view of what constitutes the teaching of writing.**
- **To discuss policies that affect all teachers of writing and administrators of writing programs, including admissions, transfer, curricular, and hiring policies.**

Audiences for these goals will be writing teachers, college and university administrators (chairs, provosts) and public officials. Methods to achieve these goals will be discussed at the September 12 meeting.

Benefits. An affiliation with the national WPA can offer the structure within which discussion can occur: national WPA issues will find a local voice through this affiliate. In addition, affiliate status can provide leverage to recruit membership from more public and private institutions in North and South Carolina.

In addition, the Carolinas WPA Affiliate will provide a password-enabled website for all members that may include a job clearinghouse, newsletter, syllabi exchange, and live chat sessions.

Needs. North Carolina and South Carolina WPAs and teachers will need as much support as possible in what appears to be several years of very drastic budget cuts. All members can benefit from knowing how those cuts are affecting writing programs and how institutions are responding. WPAs need to know how to respond in concert to these changes. In addition, the affiliate will work to educate those at the state and institutional levels about the role of writing and writing program administration in higher education.

4. Proposed affiliates must present budgets covering anticipated income and expenses for the first two years of operation. Our major source of income will include \$15/year membership dues from each participant. We expect a minimum of 50 members the first year (\$750 in income from memberships).

We will ask institutions to participate by sponsoring specific events, such as meetings and a 2004 conference.

Our expenses will include:

- Annual meeting
- Mailing, although much of what we have done in the past has been online, with no expenses except time
- The 2004 conference. We will begin to plan this conference for fall 2004 at the September 12 meeting; site consideration will include the North Carolina mountains or the South Carolina beach.

We are also making an official request for start-up money (\$500) to the WPA Executive Board in July in Grand Rapids. This money will be used to help meet some travel expenses to the September 2003 meeting for those coming from a distance. We will also design and print a brochure to mail to institutions that cannot be reached electronically.

Travel supplement (10 participants at \$35 each)	\$350
Design and print brochure	<u>\$150</u>
Total	\$500

If you have any questions, please contact Meg Morgan (mpmorgan@email.uncc.edu). Thank you.