

**Consortium of Doctoral Programs in Rhetoric/Composition
CCCC, March 16, 2005, 1:30-5:00 pm**

[• • • R/C CONSORTIUM WORKSHOP • • •]

1. Workshop convened (Chair: Stuart Brown) — 1:32 pm

2. Report on Surveys

Louise Phelps — brief presentation of rationale for Visibility Project (for NRC taxonomy of graduate programs); full report to come later

Stuart Brown — Report on MA Survey

- response from 55 out of about 200 MA programs in the field ("disappointing")
- some selected high points from data collected ("data is suspect")
 - * 400 graduate programs in English (source: ADE); 179 PhD programs in English; 74 have rhet/comp PhD programs
 - * 42 out of 55 are tracks inside an English MA degree
 - * "steady if not increasing growth in number of MA programs"
 - * 1,000 students registered at the MA level (end of 2004); only 14% are from underrepresented groups
 - * writing samples one of key criteria for admission
 - * in 2002-2003, almost 200 MA graduates from programs reporting (79 go on to PhD programs)
 - * #1 challenge: lack of resources. Other concerns: recruiting; what are foundational knowledge bases we expect MAs to have?
 - * strengths: faculty; inter/multi-disciplinary aspects of degree; theory-practice connection

Discussion of Stuart's report (Gail, Louise, Theresa, Carolyn, and others)

Q: Where do MA students come from? National Writing Project, undergrad peer tutors, undergrad professional/technical writing programs

John Ackerman — Report on PhD Survey (PowerPoint presentation) — 1:56

some selected highlights:

- 70% response rate: 45 of 65 programs reporting
- 613 graduates over past 5 years; 1,625 since 1965
- 85% of R/C programs are still in English
- are we reaching "steady state" (0 slope) in number of PhD graduates? starting to level out
- we are a senior field: 72% are full or associate profs

Discussion of John's report

Q: Can PPT presentation be published or shared? Could it be posted on web site?

Q: Could data be "dangerous"? Concern expressed about "growing too much."

Discussion of availability, loss, growth of faculty lines in R/C.

3. Proposal for Next Year's Consortium Meeting (Louise Phelps) — 2:20

- possible topic: articulation of MA and PhD programs (how do MAs pick PhD programs; how do we prepare MAs for PhD work?)

[• • • break • • •]

4. Report on Visibility Project (Louise Phelps) — 2:32

- Rhet/Comp not mentioned at all in current NRC taxonomy
- NRC taxonomy schedule
 - * June-December 2005: NRC will finalize taxonomy and questionnaire
 - * December 2005-April 2006: heads-up letters to universities for institutional coordinators
 - * July-August 2006: institutional questionnaires sent out; heads-up letter to graduate directors
 - * October-December 2006: faculty questionnaires distributed and collected
- coordinated effort to prepare case for NRC
- advantages of listing R/C as "emergent field"
- discussion of NRC criteria (e.g., number of degrees in 5 years; 25-university threshold; relationship between field and subfields)
- we have enough to qualify on the quantitative measures (e.g., "critical mass")
- presentation of case outline LP made to NRC
- NRC excludes applied fields
- programs are various; titles are variant, use different key terms (e.g., "rhetoric," "writing," "literacy," etc.); programs have different institutional status
- generic term: Rhetoric and Composition
- Professional/Technical Writing/Communication qualifies as a subfield

Proposal for Business Meeting

- do we want to publish guidelines, as a Consortium, for programs to follow?

Continuation/Expansion of Visibility Project

- Survey of Earned Doctorates — new set of codes for 2006-2007
- R/C does have a code for Dissertation Abstracts: it is 0681, Rhetoric and Composition (under Language). The Consortium (not individuals) can add subcategories: the Consortium will need to discuss and agree on them to submit officially.
- It's possible to request additional codes be given to dissertations already listed under a code number: e.g., list dissertations from before 1996 (when R/C code was assigned). Best done by groups, e.g., a program or programs, sending in a list, rather than individuals. Dissertations can be listed under multiple codes (they are topics, not disciplines).

URL for Consortium web site: http://www.rhetoric.msu.edu/rc_consortium/

URL for NRC taxonomy project: [ww7.nationalacademies.org/...](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/)

[Round of applause for Louise's good work on Visibility Project]

Questions and discussion

- Importance of getting information to NRC; importance of identifying R/C as distinct field
- Grad program director must get to Graduate Dean and/or institutional coordinator for NRC taxonomy ... if necessary going around departmental preferences
- Theresa Enos: Do we have to run this kind of research through IRBs?

5. Workshop adjourned — 3:40

[●●● break ●●●]

[• • • R/C CONSORTIUM BUSINESS MEETING — 3:54 • • •]

1. Meeting convened (Chair: Stuart Brown) — 3:54

2. Introductions of program representatives

3. Proposal to create a rotating executive board for Consortium

MOTION (Lauer, Phelps): Create an executive board with the eight roles listed below.
(Motion passes without dissent on voice vote.)

NOMINATIONS FOR OPEN POSITIONS

For Assistant Chair, Gail Hawisher (Lauer)

For Second Assistant Chair, John Ackerman (Lauer)

(Nominations accepted and closed; Hawisher, Ackerman approved without dissent on voice vote.)

PROPOSED ROLES ON AND APPOINTMENTS TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Rotating Members

Past Chair — *SB - 2006*

Current Chair — Stuart Brown *2005 - 2008*

- submits consortium proposal to CCCC
- coordinates and runs meeting
- planning annual meeting with Executive Board

Assistant Chair — Gail Hawisher *- Chair 2006, Past 2007*

- minutes for annual meeting

Second Assistant Chair — John Ackerman *- 2005, Assistant Chair 2006, Chair 2007, Past Chair - 2008*

Ongoing Members

Archivist — Janice Lauer

Visibility Project Coordinator — Louise Phelps

Technology Coordinator — Jim Porter

- web site, mail list

Treasurer/Membership — Stuart Brown

4. Proposal to revive membership dues for Consortium programs

- Stuart outlines need for funds (e.g., to join allied organizations, support business travel)
- discussion of dues — proposal: \$25 per year per institution; revived proposal: \$50; a second revived proposal: \$75

MOTION (Phelps, seconded): Raise dues to \$50 per year per institution.
(Motion passes without dissent on voice vote.)

5. Discussion of need for mission statement, goals statement, bylaws — 4:22

- Stuart: Do we want (need) a set of bylaws?

6. Discussion of Consortium caucus/meeting for 2006 CCCC

- arrangement of Consortium meeting? panel proposal?
- Louise will solicit participants to organize the MA/PhD workshop/conversation for next year's Consortium meeting.
- Stuart will put out call on the mail list for ideas on possible 4Cs 06 panel or roundtable to be sponsored by the Consortium.

- sponsored panel/roundtable ideas: inquiry-based approaches to graduate education, graduate teaching as a form of scholarship"

7. Other items for discussion

- Louise Phelps: Forms of help for the Visibility Project — e.g., organizational letters of support for NRC application?
- Janice Lauer: Consortium needs faculty volunteers! Please heed pleas!

8. Business meeting adjourned — 4:40

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Porter

- rev. 04.11.05

FYI, number in attendance at Consortium

- @ 1:40 — 26
- @ 2:40 — 29
- @ 3:40 — 31
- @ business meeting — 24