AOC Summary of the Writing Center

On March 12, 2012 the Assessment Oversight Committee reviewed the assessment report from the Writing Center (WC). Russ Brickey and Evelyn Martens presented the report. They noted that WC uses surveys, confidential feedback, tutor observation, and focus groups. The surveys demonstrate a high level of student satisfaction with the WC. For example, over 96% of students report feeling more confident about their writing abilities after their session at the WC. (Admittedly, student confidence does not entail that students are more effective writers.) Assessment results also indicated that WC should dedicate more time and money to train writing tutors, and that WC should do more to inform faculty and students about its services. Brickey also noted that the WC was involved in a UW-System “Supporting the Growth Agenda” grant that is designed to provide extra support for students in English 10. The extra support has proven successful: Of the 38 students initially enrolled, 35 completed the program, and 34 were retained to the second semester.

The AOC compliments the WC on its solid assessment efforts and does not recommend any changes to its assessment tools.