Motion from RIT Institute Writing Committee (IWC)
For Presentation at Academic Senate, Nov. 14, 2013

The Institute Writing Committee is seeking approval of the following motion by the RIT Academic Senate at its Nov. 14, 2013 meeting.

Motion:

The Academic Senate endorses waiving the General Education Writing Intensive (GE-WI) course requirement for undergraduate students in the 2012, 2013 and 2014 class cohorts.

Rationale:

As outlined in the Institute Writing Policy (Policy D16.0: http://www.rit.edu/~w-policy/sectionD/D16.html), RIT undergraduates are required to complete three Writing Intensive (WI) courses: a First-Year Writing Course, a WI-designated General Education (GE-WI) course, and a Program-WI (PR-WI) course from within the students’ disciplines. Based on recent first-year enrollments, the IWC estimates roughly 2600 seats are needed per year for First-Year Writing, and the same number each year for GE-WI courses.

The IWC has collected data to assess the Institute’s ability to implement Policy D16.0. The number of available seats for PR-WI courses will be sufficient for current students: at least 1400 seats are available this year, with more to come as programs continue to designate their PR-WI course. There are also a sufficient number of First-Year Writing seats available for first-year students.

However, there are fewer than 1200 seats available for GE-WI. There is also a backlog of students from the 2012 cohort, and many students are currently unable to fulfill the GE-WI requirement. Therefore, to prevent delays in time to graduation, and to provide the Institute with time to increase GE-WI course capacity, the IWC recommends that the GE-WI requirement be waived for the 2012, 2013 and 2014 cohorts.

Note:

The IWC will update the Academic Senate on the status of GE-WI course capacity in the Spring semester.