Committee Members:
Laura Mcilvoy, Nursing (Chair)
Maria Accardia, Librarian
Manny Tipgos, Business
Sandra Johnson, Natural Sciences
Lee Ann Meyer, Writing Center
Bernadette Olson, Social Sciences
Tom O’Neil, Arts & Letters
Michael Jackman, Writing Program
Melissa Sutherland, Education
Year-End Report of the Improvement of Writing Committee

The Improvement of Writing Committee is charged with “assisting in devising and recommending policies, procedures, and programs that would enhance the writing proficiency of students at IU Southeast”. In response to this mandate, the Assessment Grid for Capstone Papers across the Disciplines was finalized in 2008 and posted on the website http://ilte.ius.edu/howclass.cfm by IT. The ultimate goal of IOW is to conduct a campus wide writing assessment of capstone papers across the disciplines of IUS.

It was decided in 2009 that the first step in this process was to obtain a collection of capstone papers by each School of varying writing quality to serve as a valuable resource for faculty in differentiating truly well written papers from poorly written papers within their particular discipline. During the fall semester of 2009, the IOW committee members began collecting examples of poor quality, medium quality, and excellent quality papers from each school. To facilitate this, an Oncourse site was established for the IOW committee. Each member of IOW was to post (or send them to the Chair to post) a poor, medium, and excellent quality capstone paper on the IOW Oncourse site where the rest of the IOW committee members could voice their agreement or disagreement on the quality. Once there was a consensus among committee members on the quality of the papers, these papers will be posted on a web site available to all faculty. To date the papers for the Schools of Nursing, Business, Arts & Letters, and Social Sciences have been collected and their quality assessed. This process was anticipated to be completed Spring of 2010, however various committee members participation in School and Campus Wide Accreditation processes has delayed the IOW timetable. The remaining School representatives will continue to collect capstone quality papers for future review.

The next step in the IOW mission is to collect random capstone papers from each School. These random papers will be selected by picking the 3rd name down on the roster of all capstone classes. Members of IOW have begun collecting these papers for the campus wide writing assessment. When all are collected, the committee can begin the assessment using the validated Assessment Grid for Capstone Papers.