

First Athens International Writing Centers Conference
Revisioning Tomorrow's Writing Center: Roles, Practices, Audiences
November 9-10, 2007
Hellenic American University, Athens, Greece
Theme III *Writing Centers: Administration-Viability-Social Outreach*, November 10th

Presenter: Prof. Kemal Inan
Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey
inan@sabanciuniv.edu

Interview Moderator: Dilek Tokay
Writing Center, Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey
dilekt@sabanciuniv.edu

Questions in the Interactive Video Recording Corresponding to the *Conference Abstract*
[24 questions in 3 categories]

As you listen to the talk try to see if there are explicit answers to the moderator's questions in the overall frame of the talk. Discussions will follow the video extract on possible questions that might be raised. Summative answers are provided for some questions.

General questions corresponding to the abstract [4 questions]:

1. a. How do you think Writing Centers contribute to literacy in a GLOBALIZED SCHUMPETERIAN world?
[Writing Centers help to enrich an individual's self-understanding and cultivate the individual to understand and appreciate the political, economic, administrative, and other social mechanisms that are operative in our daily lives as their aim is to reinforce analytical and critical thinking, and literacy.]
- b. How does this contribution have an effect on engineering, technology, and leadership?
-
2. a. In which stage of your career had you first heard about Writing Centers and their role within the academia or in linkage with high schools or the community at a larger scale?
[Berkeley/ METU/ Sabanci University/ Others?]
- b. Was the information you gathered positive for Writing Centers' functions?
-

Questions to be answered from the perspective of a professional/ an academician in engineering

[11 questions]:

3. a. What should be a writing center's academic role within the university?
.....
- b. How do the engineers see writing centers in general?
.....
- c. Are the Engineering Faculty members open to collaborations, *Writing across the Curriculum* [WAC] dialogue?
.....
4. a. How much writing do engineering students have at your university?
.....
- b. When you compare the requirement of writing at your university with those abroad [US or Europe] how ready are your engineering students for research papers/ projects in engineering at freshman level?
.....
5. What difficulties do the engineering students encounter in the undergraduate/ graduate curricula?
.....

Collaborations:

6. How a Writing Center can be useful to engineering students and faculty:
 - a. What kind of support do you expect to be offered to engineering students at undergraduate/ graduate level?
.....
 - b. What type of services do you expect to be presented to engineering faculty?
.....

7. a. What kind of support should the Engineering faculty give to the Writing Centers idealistically?
[Co- Projects -WAC implementations/ role in transforming the Writing Center into a multi-functional learning environment with technology/ providing resources for onsite and online assistance of the Writing Center/ Writing Center website assistance]
- b. What is needed for collaborative work that has proved to be useful, to be institutionalized, not to be affected/ faltered with people/ policy changes?
.....
- c. Do you have any examples of such practices from your university? Any FENS - Writing Center WAC efforts that have been successful?
[Yes, TA Professional Development Workshop Series for *Classroom Management* that involve about 70 new TAs every academic year, continuing for 5 years now and *Project 102 Proposal, Progress, Final Report Writing Workshop Series* that concern 300 students, celebrating its third year even with a Handbook now.]

Questions to be answered from the perspective of a Dean [9 questions]:

8. How can Writing Centers grow/ expand their services to include a broader community, the public?
.....
9. Is institutionalization of collaborative links with the faculties a challenge?
.....
10. What kind of administrative support, do you think, a Writing Center needs, concerning viability and social outreach?
[Resources for on-site and online assistance to public/ the role in transforming the Writing Center into a multi-functional learning environment with technology]
11. In terms of Bologna criteria discussed at International Deans' Conferences or UNESCO/ UNICEF support programs, do Writing Centers have a chance to grow within horizontal axis entrepreneurial university models/ techno-park projects? How?
[Raising engineers who are not only practical, quick-minded problem solvers or systems operators, but system designers help countries initiate creative projects, which are likely to solve new industrial, technological discoveries/ innovations.]
12. a. How supportive, do you think, are the Deans for the establishment and continuance of Writing Centers? in Europe? In your country?
[Deans who believe in interdisciplinarity, who are not pure engineers do make a difference.]
- b. What is needed for this at university/ high school level?
[Literacy at an early age and involvement in social sciences -- Humanities/ Cultural Studies/ History/ Literature/ Politics/ Management.]
- c. As you had taken an important role in the planning stages of Sabanci University after the International Search Conference for its foundation and before it started education in 1999, had you observed any awareness for writing and across the curriculum issues related to the issue of interdisciplinarity?
If YES, has that eagerness for making students write, met constructive efforts and further support?
[Yes! The very event of writing our University Catalogue was an excellent indication of the necessity of a Writing Center at the very beginning stage.]
13. a. As a final word, what can you recommend to Writing Center supporters, administrators, future administrators, specialists, peer tutors, and USERS to foster their enthusiasm for writing and make Writing Centers a necessity for all educational institutions in primary, secondary, and higher education?
.....
- b. Do you see it a possibility that Writing Centers can be instrumental in answering communities' literacy needs, collaborating with the NGOs or the concerned ministries?
.....