



Label: SGAR-51004

Date introduced: 9/17/2014

Author(s): Senator Nathan Alsbrooks

Sponsor(s):

Committee: Academic Affairs

Draft: First Reading

Resolution in Support of Writing Center Transparency

A bill petitioning the University of Houston Writing Center to make grading and evaluation rubrics available to all students prior to the completion mandatory assessments by the University of Houston.

Background:

Whereas, The University of Houston Writing Center exists to assist students in improving their writing ability and to assist the university in evaluating writing performance. The foremost purpose of the facility is to empower students to perform at an optimal level.

Whereas, The center is directly responsible for the creation and implementation of rubrics unique to specific fields of study. Various areas of academia often require vastly different skills to be evaluated, based on the specific requirements of that particular field of study.

Whereas, The University of Houston prides itself on attracting a diverse and robust student body from different academic backgrounds. These students arrive acclimated to different writing styles and display varying levels of proficiency.

Whereas, For this reason, students should be presented with the precise criteria by which their assignments will be evaluated prior to the completion of any exercise mandated by the University of Houston.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the 51st Administration of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That the Student Government Association petitions the Writing Center to provide clear and precise rubrics to all students prior to the completion of any assignments mandated by the university.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate strongly encourages full transparency regarding the parties grading these assessments. Students should be made aware they are subject to grading by a third party company with no affiliation to the University or the writing center, and may be unable to consult the party responsible for grading their submission.