



Dear WPA-GO Members, Followers, and Graduate Students at large,

My name is Gabrielle (Gabbi) Kelenyi, and I am the new Chair of the Writing Program Administrators Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) for the 2020-2021 academic year. **I am writing to announce that we are opening a special election to our general membership to fill the executive board positions of Vice Chair, Diversity & Outreach Chair, and Treasurer on the Graduate Committee.** Whereas normally these executive board positions are open to current Graduate Committee members only, we are hoping to recruit more leaders to positively impact WPA-GO for years to come. This cover letter serves to contextualize the special election in light of our organization's current trajectory.

The WPA-GO Graduate Committee (GC) is a team of supportive individuals who work together to devise plans to provide support to graduate students nationwide in accessible, intentional, and engaging ways, and bring those plans to fruition. Over the summer, the WPA-GO Graduate Committee embarked on a path to work through some of the cognitive dissonance between what we as members expect from WPA-GO initiatives/ programs and what we experience. In an effort to better respond to the needs of our membership, support graduate students interested in WPA scholarship and practice, and become leaders in actively anti-racist and inclusive organizational practice, we are engaging in intense reflection and planning to make ongoing improvements to WPA-GO. One of the best ways to begin this work is to make structural changes. We begin that work with this special election.

To that end, **WPA-GO is seeking leaders who are committed to making lasting structural changes within our organization--reliable self-starters who will not only bring ideas to the table but will also help envision how to execute those ideas in actively anti-racist, inclusive, and accessible ways.** We're looking for innovative leaders with ideas to help WPA-GO really address the emergent needs of graduate students across the country. Beyond that, we're looking for creative thinkers who are solutions-oriented and enthusiastic about working in teams to get things done and done well. We plan to develop ways to sustainably offer more regularly scheduled and free programming to graduate students--both virtually and in-person. We want this programming to provide social support, professional development, networking opportunities, a greater sense of connection and community within our membership, and we want the programs we start this year to feasibly continue next year and beyond. To accomplish these programmatic goals, we need ambitious leaders who are dedicated to building lasting relationships and structures that can easily be passed down and improved upon from one Graduate Committee to the next.

Most importantly, WPA-GO demands identity-conscious representation that will amplify underrepresented voices in academia. To be quite frank, the current nine-member Graduate Committee

severely lacks racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. One of the first steps toward building a more equitable organization is becoming an organization in which graduate students from a variety of backgrounds can *see* themselves; that begins with leadership. Furthermore, the Writing Studies field in general is one in which many members of nondominant communities, including myself, struggle to see themselves. WPA-GO can help begin to change that perception of WPA work by electing leadership that actually represents people of a wide variety of colors, genders, sexualities, abilities, statuses, classes, etc. *The statement instructions in our applications to run for these executive board positions specifically ask about race, gender, class, ability, migrant status, and sexuality in order to build an equitable organization, not because these aspects of identity define individuals but because these are the primary axes of oppression and privilege. Thus, WPA-GO specifically encourages people from nondominant communities to run for these executive board positions on the GC, and the election process for each position will not move forward until at least TWO people from nondominant communities apply.*

WPA-GO typically receives 3-5 applications for positions on the Graduate Committee each year. We hope that this cover letter encourages many, many more. *However, we understand that graduate students lead very busy, multi-faceted lives, and our current context does not allow for business as usual. As an organization of graduate students, we are very aware of the explicit and implicit demands for increased pandemic productivity, and we do not intend for this call to add to those demands. Thus, we encourage you to read the calls for Vice Chair, Diversity & Outreach Chair, and Treasurer carefully to determine if any of the positions are the right fit for you and your plans this year.* WPA-GO Graduate Committee members will be hosting virtual drop-in information sessions on [Thursday, September 17th, from 6-7pm EST/ 3-4pm PST](#), and [Tuesday, September 22nd, from 6-7pm EST/ 3-4pm PST](#) to answer questions, share experiences, and hopefully help interested parties determine how/ if positions fit their plans and schedules. If you have individual questions or concerns about WPA-GO, this special election, or any of the positions, or if you can't attend one of the information sessions, please feel free to contact me directly at the email address below or reach out to any of the current [Graduate Committee](#) members.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Kelenyi
Chair, Writing Program Administrators Graduate Organization (WPA-GO)
kelenyi@wisc.edu

WPA-GO Vice Chair

(an Executive Board member position on the Graduate Committee)

Applications due September 30, 2020



We invite applications for the position of Vice Chair in the Writing Program Administrators Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) for the 2020-2021 academic year to become Chair of WPA-GO for the 2021-2022 academic year. The position will become effective October 15, 2020. The Vice Chair position is a member of the Executive Board of the Graduate Committee.

WPA-GO works with the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) to support graduate student WPA preparation and to strengthen connections between graduate students and professional WPAs. The Vice Chair position is an important role that contributes greatly to many of the initiatives coordinated by the organization, including assisting the Chair in organizing and facilitating Graduate Committee meetings, serving as the Graduate Committee representative on the CWPA Executive Board, and serving on WPA-GO committees.

This year, the Vice Chair will assist the Chair in accomplishing the following goals:

- a. Establish liaison positions with CWPA and other graduate student organizations.
- b. Support committees in developing and executing community-building and relationship-building programs/activities that connect graduate students nationwide.
- c. Create easy-to-use organizational systems for GO documents, records, meeting notes, and communications that can seamlessly be passed down from Chair to Chair.
- d. Expand ways that WPA-GO attracts and recruits diverse members and provides meaningful experiences to learn about WPA best practices and scholarship.
- e. Advance and promote your own goals for the organization!

According to the WPA-GO Bylaws, the Vice Chair is specifically responsible for:

- a. Assisting the Chair as needed.

- b. Serving as the Graduate Committee Representative on the CWPA Executive Board (EB).
- c. Chairing one (1) Graduate Committee and serving as a member on two (2) additional Committees.
- d. In agreement with the Chair, being responsible for any tasks that will prepare the Vice Chair for their Chair term.

The GC Chair positions are typically a *two-year term*, cycling from Vice Chair to Chair, in order to provide additional graduate students with the opportunity to chair the organization. The Vice Chair term typically begins immediately following the CWPA Conference of the year of their election and ends immediately following the CWPA Conference of the year their term ends; however, the special nature of this year's election changes that term to October 2020 to July 2021. The Vice Chair then immediately cycles into the Chair position. If the Chair is not graduating at the end of their term, they may serve a third year as Past Chair to provide WPA-GO with continuity.

The Chairs are responsible for coordinating all activities of the organization. The Chairs may designate others to take on these responsibilities as needed. Normally, Vice Chairs are nominated by incumbent Chairs after they have consulted the rest of the GC Members. This year, however, we are opening nominations up to the WPA-GO membership as a whole. The incumbent Vice Chair is then appointed by the President of the CWPA.

All Graduate Committee Members (Chair, Vice Chair, GC Members, Executive Board GC Members) are responsible for:

- a. Promoting WPA-GO at their home institutions, at conferences, and online by sharing important notices and promotional materials.
- b. Consulting with Chair and Vice Chair on decisions including appointment of incoming Vice Chair, recipient of Service Award (CWPA), and other initiatives as presented by the Chair and Vice Chair.
- c. Detailing individual committee goals and plans for the academic year (AY) as necessary or as requested by GC members.
- d. CCCC and CWPA responsibilities:
 - i. Attending all GC semi-annual meetings at CCCC and CWPA (at a time determined by the GC Chairs through a polling of convenient times) from the CWPA Conference of the year of their election through to the one of the year that their terms end. GC members who miss more than two meetings over the course

of their term or who, in general, do not fulfill their expected duties as outlined below may be asked by the Chairs or the CWPA President to resign.

- ii. Reporting semi-annually in advance of CCCC and CWPA EB Reports to the GC Chair and Vice Chair.
- iii. Representing WPA-GO at the CCCC general Graduate Student SIG, should one be scheduled.
- iv. Representing WPA-GO at the CWPA GO-specific SIG, should one be scheduled.

Past WPA experience is NOT REQUIRED to become Vice Chair of WPA-GO. In fact, serving as Vice Chair is a great way to gain WPA experience, network and learn from both grad student WPAs and professional WPAs, and gain a grasp of the field. In fact, many who serve on the WPA-GO Graduate Committee go on to serve on the CWPA Executive Board. *Self-nominations are strongly encouraged. Graduate students from nondominant communities are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a graduate student in good standing at their institution.
- Applicants must be able to commit at least *two years* to WPA-GO, as they will serve one (1) year as Vice Chair and one (1) year as Chair. Should the incoming Vice Chair remain a graduate student at the end of service, they have the additional opportunity to serve one (1) year as Past Chair.
- Applicants must be able to attend CWPA's Executive Board (EB) meetings at CCCC and CWPA (due to WPA-GO's presence on the CWPA EB). These are usually held the day before the conferences officially begin. Exceptions may be made for extraordinary circumstances.

Selection Criteria:

- Election to Executive Board positions is still an internal voting process due to time constraints this year; however, we hope to open it to the general membership within the next two years.
- The position of Vice Chair is a *significant* time commitment. The Vice Chair must be prepared to devote at least eight (8) hours per month to WPA-GO duties weekly during slow times, and more hours during busy times (e.g., planning for CCCC and CWPA conferences). This workload will increase when the Vice Chair cycles into the Chair position the following year.

- Applicants for Vice Chair should possess excellent communication, organization, and time management skills. Ideally, they have previous leadership experience, which can include but is not limited to teaching, facilitating workshops, participating in committee work in GO and/or other organizations, volunteering, tutoring, etc.

To apply for the WPA-GO Vice Chair position, please submit the following to wpago1@gmail.com by 11:59pm CST on September 30, 2020:

- a. Name, institution, program, year in program/ how many years you have left.
- b. Brief bio and statement (to be submitted as a Word document or Google doc).
 - i. **Brief Bio:** In no more than 200 words, please share your educational background, interests, and aspirations. You are also encouraged to include your race, gender, class, ability, migrant status, and/or sexuality. We ask for this information to aid our efforts to build an identity-conscious and equitable organization; your information will not be shared beyond the Graduate Committee without your express permission.
 - ii. **Statement:** In no more than 500 words, please describe how and why you are qualified for this position, including how you will leverage your previous experience, strengths, and identity to amplify underrepresented voices in WPA-GO. Your statement should detail your ideas for your tenure as Vice Chair and how those ideas address CWPA's pledge to "foster inclusion more generally; promote research into student diversities; promote policies that increase diversity in our membership and in the population of people who administer writing programs; and explicitly act against the structures that cause injustice today."
- c. Photo/ headshot (submit as attachment).

You will receive email confirmation from the WPA-GO Chair that your materials have been received.

Next Steps:

All of your submitted application materials (your name, bio, statement, and photo) will go into a survey ballot with other applicants to be voted on by the current graduate Committee members. You will be notified via email of the status of your application after voting is completed. If you are appointed to the Vice Chair position, you will have one week to accept or decline the appointment.

If you have questions about this position, please email Gabbi Kelenyi, Chair (kelenyi@wisc.edu) or Amanda Presswood, Past Chair (alp17c@my.fsu.edu).

WPA-GO Diversity & Outreach Chair

(an Executive Board member position on the Graduate Committee)

Applications due September 30, 2020



We invite applications for the position of Chair of the Diversity & Outreach Committee in the Writing Program Administrators Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) for the 2021-2022 academic year. The position will become effective October 15, 2020. Graduate students from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

WPA-GO works with the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) to support graduate student WPA preparation and to strengthen connections between graduate students and professional WPAs. The Chair of the Diversity & Outreach Committee is an important role that leads the committee in ensuring that graduate students from diverse groups are heard, represented, included, and have opportunities for leadership in all GO proceedings, documents, and events. Additionally, the Diversity & Outreach Chair, with the help of the Diversity & Outreach Committee, will work to connect the CWPA and WPA field at large with diverse academic institutions and conferences both in the U.S. and internationally.

The Diversity & Outreach Chair helps coordinate many of the initiatives coordinated by the organization, including social gatherings, mentorship events, travel awards and grants, and other funding opportunities. The Chair is also encouraged to develop new initiatives and revise practices as the organization grows.

This year, the Diversity & Outreach Chair will assist the Graduate Committee and WPA-GO at large in accomplishing the following goals:

- a. Collaborate with committees to develop affinity-based, community-building, and/or research-based support groups and professionalization opportunities that connect graduate students from diverse backgrounds to WPA scholarship and experiences.

- b. Work with the Chair and Vice Chair to expand ways that WPA-GO attracts and recruits diverse members and provides meaningful experiences to learn about WPA best practices and scholarship.
- c. Collaborate with the Digital Presence Committee to ensure that GO's public image on social media and the internet amplifies the work of graduate students from underrepresented populations and to invite participation in new initiatives.
- d. Assist the Graduate Committee in reformulating leadership positions to not only attract more volunteers and members but also ensure these positions are equitably and meaningfully exposing GO members to WPA best practices, connecting them with intentional mentors, and supporting GO's vision and values.
- e. Advance and promote your own goals for the organization!

According to the WPA-GO Bylaws, the Diversity & Outreach Chair is responsible for:

- a. Reviewing organization documents on a regular, ongoing basis as needed.
- b. Collaborating with Chairs, Treasurer, Master's Rep, and other GO members to foster a diverse and inclusive environment.
- c. Designing projects and initiatives that further CWPA's mission to "foster inclusion more generally; promote research into student diversities; promote policies that increase diversity in our membership and in the population of people who administer writing programs; and explicitly act against the structures that cause injustice today."
- d. The Diversity and Outreach community also works with the local planning committee to schedule guest speakers for our CWPA workshop.

Past WPA experience is NOT REQUIRED to become Diversity & Outreach Chair of WPA-GO. In fact, serving in this position is a great way to gain WPA experience, network and learn from both grad student and professional WPAs, and gain a grasp of the field. In fact, many who serve on the WPA-GO Graduate Committee go on to serve on the CWPA Executive Board. *Self-nominations are strongly encouraged. Students from nondominant communities are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a graduate student in good standing at their institution.

- Applicants must be able to commit at least *two years* to WPA-GO, as they will serve one (1) year as Diversity & Outreach Chair and one more (1) year to complete their term on the Graduate Committee.

Selection Criteria:

- Election to Executive Board positions is still an internal voting process due to time constraints this year; however, we hope to open it to the general membership within the next two years.
- The position of Diversity & Outreach Chair is a significant time commitment. The Vice Chair must be prepared to devote at least four to six (4-6) hours per month to WPA-GO duties weekly during slow times, and more hours during busy times (e.g., planning for CCCC and CWPA conferences).
- Applicants for Diversity & Outreach Chair should possess a deep commitment to social justice and equity. Additionally, excellent communication, organization, and time management skills are important. Ideally, applicants have previous leadership experience, which can include but is not limited to teaching, facilitating workshops, participating in committee work in GO and/or other organizations, volunteering, tutoring, etc.

To apply for the WPA-GO Diversity & Outreach Chair position, please submit the following to wpago1@gmail.com by 11:59pm CST on September 30, 2020:

- a. Name, institution, program, year in program/ how many years you have left.
- b. Brief bio and statement (to be submitted as a Word document or Google doc).
 - i. **Brief Bio:** In no more than 200 words, please share your educational background, interests, and aspirations. You are also strongly encouraged to include your race, gender, class, ability, migrant status, and/or sexuality. We ask for this information to aid our efforts to build an equitable organization; your information will not be shared beyond the Graduate Committee without your express permission.
 - ii. **Statement:** In no more than 500 words, please describe how and why you are qualified for this position, including how you will leverage your previous experience, strengths, and identity to amplify underrepresented voices in WPA-GO. Your statement should detail your ideas for your tenure as Diversity & Outreach Chair and how those ideas address CWPA's pledge to "foster inclusion more generally; promote research into student diversities; promote policies that

increase diversity in our membership and in the population of people who administer writing programs; and explicitly act against the structures that cause injustice today.”

c. Photo/ headshot (submit as attachment).

You will receive email confirmation from the WPA-GO Chair that your materials have been received.

Next Steps:

All of your submitted application materials (your name, bio, statement, and photo) will go into a survey ballot with other applicants to be voted on by the current graduate Committee members. You will be notified via email of the status of your application after voting is completed. If you have been appointed to the Vice Chair position, you will have one week to accept or decline the appointment.

If you have questions about this position, please email Gabbi Kelenyi, Chair (kelenyi@wisc.edu) or Megan Von Bergen, Digital Presence Committee Chair (mvonberg@vols.utk.edu).

WPA-GO Treasurer

(an Executive Board member position on the Graduate Committee)

Applications due September 30, 2020



We invite applications for the position of Treasurer of the Writing Program Administrators Graduate Organization (WPA-GO) for the 2020-2021 academic year. The position will become effective October 15, 2020. The Treasurer is a member of the Executive Board of the Graduate Committee.

WPA-GO works with the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) to support graduate student WPA preparation and to strengthen connections between graduate students and professional WPAs. The Treasurer position is an important role that contributes greatly to many of the initiatives coordinated by the organization, including travel awards and grants, social gatherings, and other funding opportunities. Additionally, this role encourages invention as the Treasurer contributes to WPA-GO initiatives, new proposals, and developmental projects. The Treasurer will also have the opportunity to serve on WPA-GO Committees.

This year, the Treasurer will be responsible for:

- A. Planning and managing the WPA-GO budget.
- B. Coordinating with the CWPA President and Treasurer and the GC Chair, Vice Chair, and Past Chair to identify publishers, local conference planning committees, and other sponsors for WPA-GO events, travel grants, grant opportunities, etc.
- C. Serving on CCCC Local Planning Committee and CWPA Local Planning Committee to facilitate social funding.
- D. Serving on the GO Grants Committee and maintain open communication lines with other committees per funding and awards.
- E. Developing and advancing your own goals for the organization with the support of the Graduate Committee!

All Graduate Committee Members (Chair, Vice Chair, GC Members, Executive Board GC members) are responsible for:

- A. Promoting WPA-GO at their home institutions, at conferences, and online by sharing important notices and promotional materials
- B. Consulting with Chair and Vice Chair on decisions including appointment of incoming Vice Chair, recipient of Service Award (CWPA), and other initiatives as presented by the Chair and Vice Chair
- C. Completing annual academic year calendars in September to detail individual committee goals and plans
- D. CCCC and CWPA responsibilities
 - a. Attending all GC semi-annual meetings at CCCC and CWPA (at a time determined by the GC Chairs through a polling of convenient times) from the CWPA Conference of the year of their election through to the one of the year that their terms end. GC members who miss more than two meetings over the course of their term or who, in general, do not fulfill their expected duties as outlined below may be asked by the Chairs or the CWPA President to resign.
 - b. Reporting semi-annually in advance of CCCC and CWPA EB Reports to the GC Chair and Vice Chair.
 - c. Representing WPA-GO at the CCCC general Graduate Student SIG, should one be scheduled.
 - d. Representing WPA-GO at the CWPA GO-specific SIG, should one be scheduled.

Past WPA experience is NOT REQUIRED to become Treasurer. In fact, serving as Treasurer is a great way to gain WPA experience, network, and learn from both grad student WPAs and professional WPAs, and gain a grasp of the field. Additionally, you do not have to be a “numbers person” to hold this position, as the math required is typically just addition and subtraction. We encourage all to apply, especially if you have interest in learning how to balance and organize a zero-sum budget, an essential WPA skill.

Self-nominations are strongly encouraged. Graduate students from nondominant communities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be a graduate student in good standing at their institution.

- Applicants must be able to commit at least *two years* to WPA-GO.

Selection Criteria:

- Election to Executive Board positions is still an internal voting process due to time constraints this year; however, we hope to open it to the general membership within the next two years.
- The position of Treasurer is a significant time commitment. The Treasurer must be prepared to devote at least four to six (4-6) hours per month to WPA-GO duties during slow times, and more hours during busy times (e.g., planning for CCCC and CWPA conferences).
- Applicants for Treasurer should possess a willingness to collaborate with others and to organize and manage detailed information. Applicants with previous experience in fundraising, service, and teaching-- as a part of WPA-GO or in other contexts-- will be ideal for this position.

To apply for the WPA-GO Treasurer position, please submit the following to wpago1@gmail.com by 11:59pm CST on September 30, 2020:

- a. Name, institution, program, year in program/ how many years you have left.
- b. Brief bio and statement (to be submitted as a Word document or Google doc).
 - i. **Brief Bio:** In no more than 200 words, please share your educational background, interests, and aspirations. You are also encouraged to include your race, gender, class, ability, migrant status, and/or sexuality. We ask for this information to aid our efforts to build an equitable organization; your information will not be shared beyond the Graduate Committee without your express permission.
 - ii. **Statement:** In no more than 500 words, please describe how and why you are qualified for this position, including how you will leverage your previous experience, strengths, and identity to amplify underrepresented voices in WPA-GO. Your statement should detail your ideas for your tenure as Treasurer and how those ideas address CWPA's pledge to "foster inclusion more generally; promote research into student diversities; promote policies that increase diversity in our membership and in the population of people who administer writing programs; and explicitly act against the structures that cause injustice today."
- c. Photo/ headshot (submit as attachment).

You will receive email confirmation from the WPA-GO Chair that your materials have been received.

Next Steps:

All of your submitted application materials (your name, bio, statement, and photo) will go into a survey ballot with other applicants to be voted on by the current graduate Committee members. You will be notified via email of the status of your application after voting is completed. If you have been appointed to the Treasurer position, you will have one week to accept or decline the appointment.

If you have questions about this position, please email Gabbi Kelenyi, Chair (kelenyi@wisc.edu) or Amanda Presswood, Past Chair (alp17c@my.fsu.edu).