Faculty Writing Groups

Under the auspices of the Office of Faculty Affairs, the Faculty Writing Groups are designed to support faculty members as they write for publication, and by extension, for promotion, tenure, and continuing contribution to scholarship. The program works with faculty members to promote and share strong writing practices and build communities of writers on campus.

CORE PRINCIPLES

The groups are founded on these basic principles: 1) group accountability helps reinforce motivation; 2) feedback improves writing; 3) scholarly writers can learn from those in and outside of their disciplines; 4) peers can help each other set goals and priorities.

STRUCTURE OF THE GROUPS

The Office for Faculty Affairs will start forming groups of 5-7 scholar/writers on a rolling basis as requests come in. Groups will be initially facilitated by the Director for Faculty Leadership, but will ultimately become self-directed and select (or rotate) facilitators from within the group. Groups will begin with the structure described in this document, but after the initial meetings, members may find other kinds of structures more useful.

Participants will

- commit to regular attendance
- keep a record of their goals and progress
- read each other’s work with the goal of offering suggestions for improvement

Group Facilitators will

- lead a short discussion on productivity at the beginning of each session
- ask participants to report their accomplishment since the last meeting
- commit to goals for the next meeting
- facilitate group discussion of goals, strategies, and long-term writing plans

Possible Topics for discussion

- Training yourself to write regularly
- Productive goal-setting strategies
- Types of revision and feedback (structural, surface-level, etc.)
- Balancing teaching/writing/service
- Strategies for dealing with rejected projects or reviewers' comments
- Work/life balance
- Revise and resubmit
- Book proposals
- Peer review and networking

For further information, contact Laura J. Rosenthal, Director for Faculty Leadership and Professor of English; lrosent1@umd.edu; 301-405-1022.