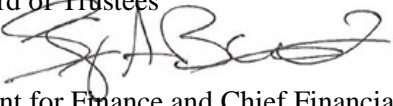




Lloyd A. Blanchard, PhD
Interim Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial
Officer and Associate Professor in Residence,
Department of Public Policy

September 28, 2022

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: Lloyd A. Blanchard 
Interim Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer
RE: Annual Report of the Endowed Chair Program Entitled "Aetna Chair of Writing"

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with statute, the Board of Trustees directs the submittal of the annual report prepared by the University Administration to the Office of Higher Education concerning the endowed chair expenditures for the Endowed Chair Program entitled "Aetna Chair of Writing".

RESOLUTION:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the annual report concerning the endowed chair expenditures for the Endowed Chair Program entitled "Aetna Chair of Writing"; and directs the submittal of these annual reports to the Office of Higher Education."

BACKGROUND:

The Aetna Chair of Writing is under the direction of Professor Brenda Jo Brueggemann and is funded jointly by the UConn Foundation and the Office of Higher Education Investment Fund. It was established during the 1988-89 fiscal year as authorized by C.G.S. Section 10a-20a. Subsection (f) of the statute states that "the Board of Trustees shall submit annual reports to the Office of Higher Education concerning the endowed chair expenditures."


The 2022 annual report consists of a financial report and a narrative report by Professor Brueggemann.

Attachments



DATE: August 31, 2022

TO: Lloyd Blanchard
Interim Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Trish Casey 
Associate Vice President, Financial Operations and Controller

RE: Aetna Chair of Writing

Enclosed is a financial report for the Aetna Chair of Writing program, under the direction of Professor Brueggemann, for fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The report provides the separate financial operations of the program managed by the University and the UConn Foundation, along with the combined total. The expenditures for fiscal year 2022 totaled \$20,180.46.

Professor Brueggemann has provided a narrative of the writing program's operation for fiscal year 2022, which is also enclosed. Section 10a-20a (f) of the Connecticut General Statutes requires an annual report approved by the University's Board of Trustees to be submitted to the Office of Higher Education (OHE) for the Endowed Chair of Writing.

Additional notes are provided on the financial report disclosing the year-end balances of the Foundation and OHE endowment funds.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you should have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

University of Connecticut and
University of Connecticut Foundation
Aetna Chair of Writing
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	University	Foundation	Combined Total
Beginning Balance as of July 1, 2021	\$ 22,526.43	\$ 48,298.42	\$ 70,824.85
<u>Revenue</u>			
Pooled Endowment Income Allocation	-	38,684.00	38,684.00
Transferred From UConn Foundation	37,948.00	(37,948.00)	-
TOTAL REVENUE	37,948.00	736.00	38,684.00
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Salary and Fringe Benefits	6,088.30	-	6,088.30
Printing and Binding	2,957.04	-	2,957.04
Travel	250.00	-	250.00
Conferences and Meetings	7,664.99	-	7,664.99
TOTAL Contractual Services	10,872.03	-	10,872.03
Office Supplies	70.13	-	70.13
TOTAL Commodities	70.13	-	70.13
Research Incentives	400.00	-	400.00
Student Aid Fees	2,750.00	-	2,750.00
TOTAL Sundry Charges	3,150.00	-	3,150.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	20,180.46	-	20,180.46
Ending Balance as of June 30, 2022	\$ 40,293.97	\$ 49,034.42	\$ 89,328.39

This endowed chair is not supported by any University funds, but the University maintains accounts which receive revenue from the Foundation and the Office of Higher Education (OHE). These University accounts disburse the funds in support of the program including all funds transferred from the Foundation and the OHE. There were no transfers from the OHE in fiscal year 2022. The first column above summarizes the University's revenue and expenditure activity for this chair. The Foundation also disburses certain expenses directly to third parties on behalf of the University as included above in the second column in fiscal year 2022, although there were no expenses in fiscal year 2022.

The Aetna Chair of Writing has funds held at the Foundation and the OHE. The Foundation endowed fund was established with a gift of \$506,989 (amount permanently restricted) in 1986 and was valued at \$959,274.89 at June 30, 2022, which included accumulated gains/losses on the original gift. The spendable portion of the Foundation endowed fund was \$49,034.42 as of June 30, 2022. The OHE endowed fund was established with \$500,000 of state funds and is invested in the Endowed Chair Investment Fund (managed by the State Treasurer). The interest earned on this fund supports the Aetna Chair of Writing. The value of this fund was \$500,948.93 at June 30, 2022, including principal of \$500,000 and interest of \$948.93.

**The Aetna Endowed Chair of Writing
at the University of Connecticut
Report of expenditures, support, and initiatives
August 24, 2022**

Aetna Chair Discretionary Funds 2021-2022

Prepared by: Brenda Brueggemann, Aetna Chair of Writing

Discretionary funds of \$4,000 total for the 2021-2022 fiscal year were used to support two major initiatives, both related to the global pandemic and writing/research:

1. The global [Pandemic Journaling Project](#). \$1,000 support
2. The UConn Graduate Pandemic Narrative (GPN) project. \$3,000 support. A full UConn IRB/Human subjects approval was obtained for gathering what amounted to 32 narratives, plus additional artifacts (images, direct journal entries, etc) from UConn graduate students about their experiences during the two significant years of the global COVID-19 pandemic

Two (2) core graduate researchers were funded to:

- i. gather/recruit the narratives (via survey form, video/audio/text upload, or artifacts/images)
- ii. Continue analyzing, organizing, coding the data from these narratives
- iii. Begin to develop a dedicated website to the material
- iv. Plan for a few conference presentations and publications of the material

Connecticut Writing Project 2021-2022, Aetna Chair Support

Prepared by: Jason Courtmanche, CT Writing Project Director

From last year's report:

This coming summer [2021], we accepted 16 participants, but conflicts that ranged from child care to summer teaching to COVID have forced 4 to defer their acceptance. As a result, we will only be awarding 12 Fellowships. Included among these are two graduate students in Neag, one of our own English PhD candidates (Julia Brush) and two higher ed faculty members (a UConn adjunct and a community college professor). Because most (8) of the remaining 12 participants have elected to attend non-credit (two who had to withdraw had initially elected for-credit fellowships), we will only be using \$19,000 of the \$24,000 awarded last year. Therefore, I am requesting \$29,000 for next year—the customary \$24,000 we have received since the 1980s and the rolled over unused funds from this year.

We did follow through on the award of 12 Fellowships, and the rolled over funds were approved by the Aetna Advisory Board last year.

September 2021: The CT Writing Project learned we had been awarded \$39,875 by the CT State Dept of Education. Upon learning of this award, Aetna Chair Brenda Brueggemann requested that the Writing Project return some of the rolled over funds, specifically to help fund a Pandemic Journaling project run by the graduate students at UConn. It was agreed that the CWP would return \$3,000 in rolled over funds to the Aetna Chair for the sake of funding the Pandemic Journaling Project with the Connecticut Writing Project listed as a co-sponsor.

This leaves the CWP with \$26,000 of last year's approved \$29,000 to complement the \$39,875 state funds added this year. These combined funds amount to roughly \$65,000 for summer (2022) and, quite notably, it will be the first since 2011 that we will be able to award full-tuition Fellowships to teachers. The Aetna funds will be used in their entirety for Fellowships. The balance of the cost for tuition and stipends will be provided by the state funds, and we will still have state funds remaining for other purposes.

We accepted 14 applicants into the 2022 Connecticut Writing Project Summer Institute. One had to withdraw almost immediately, but 13 have accepted their offers of an Aetna Fellowship. Seven (7) have elected to receive credit for the coursework and five have elected to attend as professional development and receive a cash Fellowship rather than a credit-bearing one. Seven (7) full-tuition Fellowships will cost \$41,665, so even before we discuss the cash stipends for the five other participants (\$3,750), we will have already spent all the Aetna funds and then some on the credit-bearing Fellowships.

The 13 teachers make up an interesting group of new and veteran educators, and also show the scope of the CWP's reach and influence.

- 1 participant is from our English PhD program, post-coursework.
- 2 participants are using the credit for the MA portion of Neag's Integrated Bachelor's/Master's (IB/M) program.
- 1 participant from Neag's one-year MA program, the Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (TCPCG), is attending at the recommendation of the TCPCG because ROTC commitments made her defer the program for a year.
- 2 participants are attending as part of the CWP's collaboration with the Writing Center, to study writing center pedagogy and establish centers at their schools.
- 2 participants were referred to the CWP from the State's Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) program, which certifies people from industry and business to teach. The Summer Institute was recommended as a way to enhance their pedagogical training.
- 3 participants are attending in order to meet coursework requirements to be certified as Early College Experience (ECE) English instructors.
- 1 participant from UMass-Amherst's PhD program is participating as part of a larger study of professional development practices.

UConn Creative Writing Program, 2021-2022, Aetna Chair Support

Prepared by: Sean Forbes, Creative Writing Program Director

Poetic Journeys: \$1,000

Printing and reception for UConn Poetry Transportation project.

Under the direction of Julia Brush, who served this academic year as the Graduate Assistant Director of the Creative Writing Program, and in collaboration with undergraduate students from the UConn Design Center Studio, eight (8) posters were designed featuring short excerpts of poems by: five undergraduate students; one graduate student; and two English adjunct faculty members. Respectively, those contributing authors were: Madison Bigelow, Krista Mitchell, Cory Nocton, Summer Quinn, Rylee Thomas, Kathryn Warrender-Hill, Amy Nocton and Julie Choffel.

The Poetic Journeys Release Party was held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 6:00 pm in the Stern Lounge of the Austin building.

Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction: \$2,000

(Author honorarium \$2,000)

The Spring 2022 Aetna Celebration of Creative Nonfiction was held via a Zoom webinar on Monday, March 7, 2022 with our featured writer: Katie Booth. The celebration honored and recognized two undergraduate student writers, and winners of the 2022 Aetna Creative Nonfiction Award, Nicole Catarino and Kazi Begum, who both read excerpts from their winning nonfiction essays.

On Tuesday, March 6, 2022, Booth met with Carly Bria, an English graduate student, for a one-on-one Zoom tutorial of Carly's nonfiction essay.

Katie Booth is a writer, ghostwriter, and editor whose work has appeared in *The Believer*, *Catapult*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Kaleidoscope*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, *WHYY's The Pulse*, *Vela*, and in the forthcoming anthology *Pittsburgh Live/Ability*. Her essays have been recognized by *Longform*, *Longreads*, and *Best American Essays*. She has received support from the Edward Albee Foundation, the Blue Mountain Center and the Massachusetts Historical Society, and was a 2017-18 John W. Kluge Fellow at the Library of Congress. She grew up in a mixed hearing/deaf family. Her first book, *The Invention of Miracles: Language, Power, and Alexander Graham Bell's Quest to End Deafness* was published by Simon & Schuster in 2021 and was a *New York Times* editors' choice.

Long River Review Production: \$2,000

Partial support —other funding to come from Creative Writing Program, the Collins Prize, and journal sales.

This year marked the 25th edition of the *Long River Review*, UConn's award-winning art and literary journal. Under the direction of faculty advisor Ellen Litman, 15 undergraduate students worked to produce the literary journal in collaboration with the UConn Design Center Studio. The Release Party took place on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 6:00 pm in the South Plaza Patio outside the Homer Babbidge Library.

Aetna Graduate Creative Nonfiction Prize: \$250

No prize was awarded.

Aetna Undergraduate Creative Nonfiction Prize: \$250

Awarded to Nicole Catarino.

Honorable Mention (no cash prize): Kazi Begum

Aetna Translation Prize: \$250

Awarded to Aarushi Nohria.

Aetna Children's Literature Prize: \$250

Awarded to Rylee Thomas.

Long River Review Graduate Writing Award: \$250

Awarded to Liam Kelsey.

Originally, \$3,000 was requested for the Aetna Writer-in-Residence Program, but since the Creative Writing Program had the Mark Twain Distinguished Writer-in-Residence Program in the fall of 2021, these funds weren't used. Also, \$250 for the Aetna Graduate Creative Nonfiction Prize was not used since the committee decided not to award the prize this year. The \$3,250 was used elsewhere.

First-Year Writing Program, UConn: Aetna Chair Support

Prepared by: Lisa Blansett, FYW Director

Last year, we were awarded \$7,500 by the Aetna Advisory Board. The following sections outline how that funding was used.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Research Project (\$4,000): The IRB proposal for our CLAS grant-supported Scholarship of Teaching and Learning project was approved in January, 2022.

We implemented the research protocols immediately upon IRB approval, but had limited participation, which we attribute in part to the abbreviated recruitment period. The CLAS Deans and Business Office have granted the project an extension to complete data collection, analysis, and write up. We have spent down the \$4,000 directed to SoTL research.

- a. \$1,200 for incentives for students.
- b. \$3,800 for graduate administrative labor in summer 2021.

Storrs Writing Program Research Fund (\$2,500): FYW Storrs faculty and graduate students contributed a panel for the Conference on College Composition and Communications. Although we were unable to attend in person this year (the Conference itself was moved online), our panel was accepted (twice!). "[Curriculum Redesign for Co-Conspirators: Detonating Racial Injustice](#)" included individual presentations by Oliver Hiob, Alex Gatten, Christopher Bolster, and Lisa Blansett. Part of the money we were awarded for the "Writing Program Research Fund" was used to pay the graduate students' CCCC-2022 registration fees. In addition, the Research Fund covered the deposit for Kathryn Warrender's participation in the 2022 Summer Seminar for Writing Research. Attending and participating in conferences using the Writing Program Research Fund helps FYW Graduate Assistant Directors keep abreast of work in the field, and makes our program visible to many other programs; we are able to engage with the communities and the conversations current in the fields of writing studies, rhetoric, and composition.

- c. CCCC 2022 Registration Fees: \$355.00
- d. Deposit paid (March 15, 2021) for Summer Seminar for Writing Research: \$500.00
- e. Books: \$235.00
- f. Summer graduate research: \$1,000
- g. Remaining: \$410.00 (redirected to 2021 Conference of Teaching and Writing)

Conference on the Teaching of Writing 2021 (\$1,000): Our funding years collided when we had to move the 2021 conference online and then move the date to after the end of the UConn semester. In the same funding year that we were cleaning up from 2021, we were also trying to plan for the 2022 Conference. For 2021, we were able to host a fully virtual single-event workshop with Dr. Jenae Cohn (author of *Skim, Dive, Surface: Teaching Digital Reading*) in place of a full conference. The change to a digital format meant we canceled the reserved space at the Hartford campus (where we have held panel and roundtable sessions), at the Hartford Public Library (a large public room we use for keynotes, and a space for poster sessions), and the food orders. The 2021 workshop ran in late May (after the usual Aetna funding period). Although Dr. Cohn had originally been retained as a keynote speaker only for the 2020 conference, she agreed to change her format to an interactive workshop; we increased her honorarium from \$1,000 to \$1,500 to account for the increase in labor. We encountered other financial complexities visited upon us by the Covid-19 Pandemic: Given timing and inability to create a system to collect registration fees online through UConn on short notice, the 2021 workshop was provided free of charge; we also had to refund registration fees paid for the canceled 2020 conference. Although we had unanticipated costs to manage, the re-imagined, online, single-event, interactive format drew more than 300 participants who engaged in a lively workshop hosted over Zoom! To support the online format (tech support, chat moderation), we paid a graduate student (Ruth Book) to provide the support the new mode required.

- h. Honorarium paid to Dr. Jenae Cohn: \$1,500
- i. Tech support, moderation, and facilitation: \$1,000
- j. Revenue loss: \$600 was refunded in April and May to those who had signed up for the 2021 conference; we are usually able to defray about \$1000 of conference expenses through a modest registration fee from non-UConn attendees. We were unable to collect registrations in both 2020 (refunds) and 2021.
- k. Deficit for 2021: (\$1,090)

For 2022, we are delighted to host another nationally recognized scholar at the Fifteenth Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing ("Linguistic Justice in Pandemic Writing Classrooms"). Dr. April Baker-Bell, author of *Linguistic Justice: Black Language, Literacy, Identity, and Pedagogy*, will provide a keynote for a fully virtual conference on May 20, 2022, and will run a teaching workshop aimed at

helping instructors implement her principles and practices. At a time when women of color in academe are routinely asked to provide un- and underpaid labor, we are fully supporting her work using her customary fee schedule: she will be paid \$5,000. We have devoted all existing resources (including funds raised) to conference expenses incurred so far, which has left us unable to cover some costs related to completing plans for and running the Conference.

Some of the additional costs began to accrue when we determined this year's Conference would need to be virtual again this year. Some of the technical logistics of hosting a large conference, virtually, necessitate paying for some Zoom upgrades and all-day support to run the panelists' rooms, the breakout sessions, the poster-presentation space, as well moderate the protected keynote and interactive workshop while also ensuring full access to all participants. Despite the change in modes, we have assembled a full schedule with three panel blocks from a large selection of submitted panel and individual presentation proposals. We have also planned a fully populated online *poster session* in addition to the keynote and the workshop.

Given the funding shortage for the conference, we are grateful to the **UConn Creative Writing Program** for their generous donation of more than \$3,000 from that program's Aetna 2021-2022 funding. The transfer of such a sum allows us to cover the shortfall by virtue of their generosity, and we are adding the CWP as a co-sponsor of the Conference.

Writing Center Aetna Funding Report for 2021-22

Prepared by: Tom Deans & Kathleen Tonry, UConn Writing Center Directors

This year's Writing Center allocation was \$1,000, and the original plan was to meet the three priorities bulleted below.

- Requested \$400 to fund an honorarium for an outside workshop or webinar leader
 - We did not organize such a workshop for our staff, in large part because our staff energies went into dealing with multiple policy changes in response to covid. However, we are contemplating bringing in a consultant to work with just our leadership team in late May to help us with planning for next year. If we can get that done, we will spend \$300 on a stipend; if not, that funding will revert to the Aetna Chair.
- Requested \$300 to fund student research projects and conference travel
 - We committed \$400 for graduate student and incoming Assistant Director Sarah Bertekap to attend the 2022 International Writing Center Association Summer Institute. When Sarah completes the institute in July, we can ask her to report back about her experience. Margie paid the registration fee with our procard in mid-April and arranged with Melanie to transfer \$400 from the Aetna account.
- Requested \$300 to contribute to the re-launch of our secondary school writing center outreach, which was paused in 2020-21
 - We successfully relaunched the conference in March 2022 with a "Bounce Back!" theme. Fortunately we were able to get Early College Experience to cover the conference costs (except for wages of tutors who organized and led the event, which the Writing Center covered). Because we did not use this \$300, it will return to the Aetna Chair.

UConn-Hartford Campus, Aetna Chair Support

Prepared by Scott Campbell, Writing Coordinator

With the funding we received from the Aetna Chair in 2021-2022, we ran a half-day workshop at the Hartford Campus for seven of the Hartford Campus First-Year Writing instructors. This workshop on April 29 included three parts. The first part was a discussion and working through of issues and questions about student performance in this most trying year. How can our courses speak to and perhaps mitigate the crisis happening now with students and their academic engagement? What can we do collectively that might accomplish more than our individual efforts with individual students? A second part of the workshop was focused on materials that define the common characteristics and

practices of UConn FYW courses. As this was the first semester of ENGL 1007 at Hartford, we discussed the successes and difficulties with this first iteration. How might we tweak and revise our courses to make the most of what 1007 offers for students? Finally, we looked at individual pieces from these spring courses—syllabi, assignment summaries, full assignment prompts, etc.—and continued our discussion of FYW through the specific examples of these Hartford materials. How did students work within this new course? How can our assignments—our calls to composition—help students situate themselves as active, contributing members of an inquiry-driven seminar? How did studio sessions go?

Because of the turbulence and uncertainty of the year, which included the sudden move online for the first two weeks of the spring semester, we prioritized community building and student experience. Fortunately, we were able to have this workshop in person. I set up an online folder to house the materials for future use and for access by instructors who were unable to attend.

UConn-Waterbury Campus, Aetna Chair Support

Prepared by Ellen Carillo, Writing Coordinator

The Waterbury campus appreciates the funding provided by the Aetna Chair of Writing. For Academic Year 21-22, I requested funding for several events, but because the campus was not doing in-person events, I ultimately asked that the funding be reallocated to support faculty members in the FYW Program who attended a series of virtual workshops on the transition to the WAT curriculum and to teaching ENGL1007, specifically. Each FYW faculty member was able to receive \$75 (or a credit of \$75 to put toward books in the case of the APIR who teaches FYW) for their participation in these professional development workshops. Only 3 of the 7 instructors completed the paperwork to receive the \$75. In October, I requested an additional \$75 to cover an honorarium for graduate student Amy Fehr who led November's professional development workshop.

Total Requested: \$675

Total Spent: \$375 (*as noted above, only 3 of the 7 instructors completed the required paperwork to receive the stipend)

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Jo Brueggemann
Professor, English & American Studies & WGSS
Aetna Endowed Chair of Writing
The University of Connecticut

August 24, 2022