

GEOC Meeting September 10, 2007

In Attendance: Katharina von Hammerstein, Hedley Freake, Anabel Perez, Jane Goldman, Mike Darre, William Lott, Cora Lynn Deibler, John Troyer, Dean Hanink, Tom Deans, Marie Cantino, Manuela Wagner, Tom Roby, Peter Gogarten, Clare Eby, Arnie Dashesfky.

Meeting was called to order at 12:05pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- New GEOC member: Jane Goldman.
- Returning GEOC member after 2006-2007 sabbatical: Arnie Dashesfky.

2. Minutes from the May 7, 2007 GEOC meeting were approved as presented.

3. Announcements:

- *Unified Curriculum Action Request form.* GEOC and the Senate office are working, with funding from the Provost's Office, on creating a seamless CAR. Currently, UITS is working on the technical side of this form.
 - Some concerns have been raised about the hierarchy of necessary approvals and miscommunication across schools, colleges, and departments about these levels. A seamless, "smart," form would solve this problem.
- *Learning Commons.* There are currently 4 components at the Babbidge Library focused on gened competencies: Q, W, information literacy, and computer technology. A committee is being formed to discuss the creation of a Second Language and Culture Center.
 - Regional campuses: the Learning Commons are limited to the Storrs campus. Currently, the Hartford campus W Center is up and running and the Q Center is being created. GEOC needs to be a voice for gened competency support at the regional campuses as well as Storrs.
- *W enrollment cap:* support for the 19 student enrollment cap has been reinforced amid concerns from some departments about shortage of seats and lack of resources.
 - GEOC could propose a Senate action to automatically drop a student's enrollment from a W course if that student does not attend first week's classes. This would have to be a Senate change for undergraduate catalogs and would have to be clearly, and forcefully, communicated.
 - What should GEOC's role be in enforcing this cap? At what point should individual instructors be contacted?
 - W enrollment capacity in the major: science departments are not able to handle W course capacity for their major enrollment. Additional resources would not necessarily solve this issue as TAs must be English native speakers AND be familiar and able to teach upper level division courses.
 - Reconceptualization of the W course is needed in situations where there is a shortage of W capacity. Some alternatives to the traditional 3 credit W are:
 - 1 credit additions to regular courses.
 - Meeting with the W Center to discuss other creative options.

- Resources need to be directed across the University to this need if the 19 enrollment cap is to be enforced without undue and disproportionate burden on departments.
 - The W surveys submitted in 2006 did not point to this as a desperate need, but the issue is coming to a head as students under the new gened requirements get closer to graduation and the W in the major requirement needs to be fulfilled.
- *John Bennett* is undergoing triple bypass surgery and will be out of commission for the next month.
- *Eastern Connecticut State University*: Jeff von Munkwitz-Smith discovered that ECSU was offering 3-week gened courses over the summer and publicizing this information to UConn students in the Daily Campus. Hedley Freake met with his ECSU counterpart about this situation. ECSU, a smaller school, is farther down the assessment road than UConn.
 - Note: ECSU courses that get transferred in for gened credit are not reviewed.
- *Senate Curricula and Courses Report*. Anabel Perez will email Tammy Gifford with this report that includes outstanding business from the May 2007 GEOC meeting.

4. Subcommittee Reports.

- There are no subcommittee reports at this time.
- 2006 Provost's Competition course HRTS/PHIL 1XXW is planned for Spring 2008 teaching. It has been proposed for CA1, CA4, and W consideration but has not yet received approval. The proposers have requested we expedite the approval process in order to make the October 8, 2007 Senate meeting and opening of Spring 2008 registration.

5. Subcommittee and GEOC vacancies.

- GEOC has solicited nominations to populate the GEOC subcommittees. Nine persons responded to this solicitation. Three of these persons noted interest in more than one subcommittee. Their distribution will be as follows:
 - Richa Attre: CA4
 - David Atkin: CA2
 - Jean Givens: CA1
 - Anabel Perez to email GEOC with the list of subcommittee nominations.
 - Student representatives needed on all subcommittees.
- *GEOC vacancies*: Lisa Sanchez is stepping down from GEOC and needs to be replaced.
 - The following subcommittees currently have only one chair.
 - Computer Technology, Information Literacy, Second Language, Writing.
 - GEOC membership is largely CLAS faculty. We need representatives from other schools/colleges.
 - Murphy Sewall (School of Business), currently a CTC subcommittee member, could be asked to co-chair that subcommittee.

- Carolyn Lin, currently an ILC subcommittee member, could be asked to co-chair that committee.
- Xae Reyes (School of Education), not currently on GEOC or a subcommittee, could be a good addition to GEOC. GEOC will make this recommendation to the Senate Nominating Committee.
- Jane Goldman will co-chair the Writing subcommittee.

6. Assessment Update

- *SAILS: Information literacy*
 - 840 ENGL 110/111 students have participated in the pre-test portion of the SAILS instrument, roughly 49% of that population. A post-test will be given in late Fall. The results of this assessment will be available January 2008.
 - Assessment subcommittee will select 200 students to follow through their undergraduate career. These students will be tested at various points to assess their information literacy progress.
- *W Assessment*: An assessment scheme needs to be created with the W center and additional TAs, in order to begin this assessment.
- *Funding*: CA3 and Information Literacy Assessment funding is coming from this year's Provost's Office budget.

7. Upcoming year plans

- *Reassessment of General Education courses*: GEOC needs to come up with a recertification scheme to reassess current gened courses.
 - As discussed last year, the assessment goals we have identified for each content area are to be used to assess current courses.
- *2008 Provost's Competition* should target CA3 courses.
- *Computer Technology Competency*: as the computer technology field moves forward, do the eight skill areas identified in the original GEOC language need updating?
 - To be discussed among the subcommittee.

8. Other business

None

Respectfully submitted,

Anabel Perez
GEOC Administrator