

GEOC Meeting December 3, 2012

In attendance: Murphy Sewall, Anabel Perez, Linda Neelly, Peter Kaminsky, Mike Young, Tom Deans, Tom Abbott, Tom Long, Rosa Helena Chinchilla.

Not present: John Ayers, Francoise Dussart, Kailee Himes, Richard Jones, Wally Madych, Olivier Morand, Gustavo Nanclares, Xae Alicia Reyes, Tom Roby, Eliana Rojas, Noah Sharpsteen, and Sarah Winter.

Meeting called to order at 1:02pm

1. Minutes of the November 17, 2012 meeting

Motion to approve minutes as written. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

2. Announcements

- *GEOC members.* The Senate Nominating Committee has appointment two new members to the GEOC. Linda Neelly will serve as co-chair of CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism; Tom Abbott will serve as co-chair of CA3 Science and Technology.
- *Program Assistant Search.* The search for a Program Assistant continued; 3 interviews are scheduled for the following week. It is hoped that the new staff member will begin in early to mid-January.

3. Subcommittee report

CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism

Linda Neelly of the CA4 subcommittee recommended asking for more information from the ANTH 1010 proposer regarding the kinds of materials that would be included in the reading packet.

Anabel Perez will contact the proposer to request this information.

Writing Competency

The W subcommittee recommended **approval** of the following courses for inclusion in the W competency:

CE 4900W Civil Engineering Projects I
CE 4920W Civil Engineering Projects II

Motion to approve the courses. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

The W subcommittee recommended **approval** of the following course for inclusion in the W competency:

PNB 3XXXW Molecular Principles of Physiology

Motion to approve the course. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

Other course proposals

Eric Schultz raised concern about a non-W proposal, ECE 2001, which has come before the Senate C&CC and asked that the W subcommittee review both the non-W and the W proposals to see how the two fit together.

Tom Deans noted that W review of ECE 2001W will be postponed until the Spring semester when the full W subcommittee can take a look at the non-w course.

Anabel Perez will inquire with OIR to see a report of instances where W and non-W versions of a course are meeting at the same time and place.

4. Reports and Discussion

CLAS distribution requirements

There is an internal contradiction with the Gen Ed Curriculum in that gen eds and schools' distribution requirements often overlap and, in effect, create a more limited gen ed program for students; this contradiction has existed since the implementation of the current Gen Ed system in 2005. Murph Sewall reported that in talking about this at the last SEC meeting, the issue of whether it was worth discussing at this time (when it does not appear to be a problem to a great many students) was raised. The matter was initially raised after CLAS C&CC circulated a document noting that certain existing gen ed courses would not be accepted as distribution requirements for CLAS students.

Discussion:

- One GEOC member argued that, in the interest of being proactive, the GEOC should establish the parameters of this discussion.
- Another issue raised as part of this larger discussion is that the CLAS C&CC is questioning why study abroad courses come in with letter grades when domestic courses are transferred in as T.
- It was noted that there are a relatively small number of CLAS CA1 Area E courses that are not from CLAS departments.
- When defining what constitutes a gen ed course, it is a slippery slope. Taking a position that assumes that some courses are somewhat inferior is troubling.
- CLAS C&CC is taking the position that this is an issue of faculty freedom. Since degrees are granted by individual schools and colleges, not the University Senate, their position is that the Senate overstepped its bounds when it created "universality" in the Gen Ed Curriculum. The CLAS C&CC is arguing that only they can make decisions over what counts toward their degrees.

Murph Sewall noted that while the SEC is aware of this issue, they do not wish to tackle it at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 2:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anabel Perez
GEOC Administrator