GEOC Meeting November 29, 2016

*Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:*
Eric Schultz – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Joseph Abramo, Michael Bradford, Baki Cetegen**,** Michael Darre (Ex-Officio), **Ana Maria Diaz-Marcos, Arthur Engler**, Bernard Goffinet, **David Gross**, **Thomas Meyer**, **Olivier Morand**, Michael Morrell, **Gustavo Nanclares**, Fatma Selampinar, **Kathleen Tonry (Ex-Officio)**, **Eduardo Urios-Aparisi**, Manuela Wagner, Steve Zinn, **Tyler DiBrino**

Meeting was called to order at 12:33pm.

1. **Welcome**

2. **Regrets:** Joe Abramo, Manuela Wagner, and Steve Zinn (all for the semester); Bernard Goffinet; Michael Morrell

3. **The minutes from November 29, 2016 were accepted as submitted.**

4. **Announcements**
   A. Provost's Course Development Competition update
      - Six proposals were received: three CA1, one CA2, one CA3, three CA4, and two W. Two ad hoc reviewers have been assigned to each proposal, and then there is a panel of eight full reviewers. The panel will meet in mid-December.
   B. Alignment status
      - Yesterday was the deadline for submission. Four departments requested an extension, and two more departments have been released because their only eligible course(s) have either not been offered in recent years and/or will be deleted this year.
      - E. Schultz asked the committee their thoughts on situations where co-chairs or subcommittee members should recuse themselves from reviewing alignment documents due to a conflict of interest. K. Piantek noted that this has only happened once when a GEOC co-chair had submitted the course alignment that his committee was to review. The question was whether co-chairs or subcommittee members needed to recuse themselves if they were members of the department being reviewed.
      - K. Tonry felt that there should be no issue with department members reviewing alignment forms within their department. D. Gross noted that this situation did occur in the Q committee, and that there was no real conflict. O. Morand suggested that members may actually be better suited to review alignment forms within their department. G. Nanclares agreed that this did not sound like an issue. He noted that the GEOC is not giving out awards or anything, so the stakes are not high. E. Schultz noted that he and K. Piantek will add a clause about this to the procedures manual they are developing.

5. **Subcommittee Reports**
   A. CA4 Report (No report – The committee has not yet reviewed the course)
      a. ENGL 2301/W World Literature in English (Title revision) _REVISED

   B. Q Report
      a. LING 3000Q Introduction to Computational Linguistics (New)

- D. Gross noted that the LING department gave the committee a lot of extra information that clarified its questions.
- E. Schultz asked if the committee felt the course description was penetrable for undergraduate students. D. Gross did not know for sure, but he imagined that since the course is 3000-level, students would be familiar with the terminology used in the description by that point.

G. Nanclares motioned to accept the report. The motion to approve the Q report passed unanimously. (Add LING 3000Q).

C. W Report (No report – No new information has been received)
   a. CE 4900W Civil Engineering Projects I (Revise prereqs and enrollment restrictions)
      - E. Schultz noted that this course has been around since last year. E. Schultz will contact the proposers since the W co-chairs are not getting any response.

   b. ENGL 2301/W World Literature in English [#171] (Title revision) _REVISED
      - It was noted that this courses was sent back for revisions earlier in the semester, and revisions were received. The course should be ready for review.

   c. ENGL/AFRA 3213/W Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century African American Literature [#198] (New course requesting W)
   d. ENGL/AFRA 3214/W Black American Writers [# 196] (Revised title, level, enrollment restrictions, and adding cross-listing.)
   e. ENGL/AFRA 3217/W Studies in African American Literature and Culture [#200] (New course requesting W)
      - E. Schultz asked the GEOC if they wanted to forward the already-approved CA4 portions of these courses to the Senate C&C while quarantining the W sections. The ENGL department is still discussing how to handle "opportunity to revise" language in the syllabi, and this ENGL meeting may not occur until February.
      - There was some discussion of the pros and cons of moving the non-W portions on.
      - E. Schultz said that he can either contact Hap Fairbanks and see where things are so that the portions of the courses can move forward together, or the GEOC can go ahead and move the non-W portions ahead.
      - Seeing no motion forthcoming, E. Schultz said these courses will be deferred until the Spring rather than pushing ahead. He just wants to be sure things are moving along.

   f. KINS 4510/W Mechanism and Adaptations in Sport and Exercise [#351] (Revise title and description)
      - It was noted that there is an error in the docket. KINS 4510/W is all set. It is KINS 3530W that is still awaiting revisions.

   g. ENGL 2201/W ENGL 2201-W American Lit to 1880 (Add CA1 & revise descript)_resubmitted
      - Subsequent to the meeting, Chair Schultz realized that this course proposal should have been on the agenda for consideration. The English Department revised language in the CAR that was returned to them after review by the W subcommittee of GEOC. The W subcommittee reviewed these changes and in an e-mail of 11/14, approved the revised CAR. CLAS C&CC chair Bedore also signed off on the changes on 11/14. On 11/30/16, one day

subsequent to the meeting minuted here, Schultz asked for an e-vote to approve the CAR and communicate it to the Senate C&CC. He received 12 'ayes.'

h. ENGL 2203/W American Literature Since 1880 (Add CA1 & revise descript)_resubmitted
- See above explanation for ENGL 2201/W

6. **Old Business**
   A. Gen Ed Task Force
   - E. Schultz presented a resolutions document to the committee. He noted that the Senate has seen these resolutions, and the resolutions will be discussed at the December meeting.
   - Some groups will be putting forth petitions to add certain content areas to General Education, such as an environmental literacy requirement.
   - E. Schultz asked GEOC members if they had any feedback on the resolutions. G. Nanclares asked how the Senate will act on these resolutions. E. Schultz said that the Senate will vote, but not on minutia such as actually adding new content areas; they will just vote to address the broader actions.
   - E. Schultz noted that it is unclear whether the GEOC or a separate committee would be in charge of implementing any approved resolutions.
   - K. Tonry asked what GEOC's role would be if item 3.a. ("Establish a governing body for assessment at the university level") was implemented. E. Schultz noted that this governing body for assessment would not just be for General Education, but for all curriculum assessment. E. Schultz said he will be meeting with Lloyd Blanchard next week, whose has been appointed to assist with assessment in the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and may have some insight into the University's commitment for centralized management of assessment.
   - One of the biggest hindrances to assessment may be resources. Assessment is time and labor-intensive.

   B. Digital Information Literacy competency
   - No new updates.

   C. Next steps on the proposal regarding First Year Writing waivers
   - This project is on hold until the Spring.

   D. 2016-17 Assessment and Revision of Guidelines
   - No new updates, aside from upcoming meeting with Blanchard mentioned above.

   E. Deletion of the Computer Technology Competency (see New Business)
   - See by-laws revision discussion below.

7. **New Curricular Action Requests**
   A. HEJS/CLCS 2301 Jewish Humor [#599] (New CA1, CA4)
   - E. Schultz noted as he has in the past that the Gen Ed principles set out in the CAR should be included in the syllabus. He will convey this to the proposer.
This course was referred out to subcommittee. (CA1, CA4)

   B. PLSC 1120 Introduction to Plant Science [#319] (New CA3-Lab)

- E. Schultz explained that he has had a lot of correspondence about this course. It overlaps quite a bit with a course taught by Bernard Goffinet, BIOL 1110. It does not appear that other departments were consulted when the course was developed. E. Schultz asked for GEOC's consent to send it back to proposer.
- D. Gross suggested maybe the course overlap was not the purview of GEOC. He noted that GEOC reviews only content area or competency criteria, so if the course is similar to an existing course then by default it must meet criteria.
- T. Meyer said there were other issues that he felt as CA3 co-chair needed to be addressed, and he supported returning it. He said that the syllabus does not match justifications set out in CAR, and he would like to see them match.
- It was clarified that this course was out of CAHNR and not CLAS, and that CAHNR is pronounced like one has a Boston accent (Kah-ner versus Kane-er).
- Given the additional issues with the course besides the overlap, the course will be returned to the submitter, who will also be notified about overlap issue.

D. Gross motioned to return the course. G. Nanclares seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

    C.   TURF 3200W Turfgrass Physiology and Ecology [#462] (Delete W)

- T. Meyer said he has learned that plant grass is actually an interesting topic. D. Gross asked if he had watched it grow, and T. Meyer noted that this is practically a requirement.

T. DiBrino motion to move the course to the Senate C&C. T. Meyer seconded. This course was referred out to the Senate C&C.

8. **New Business**
   A. Revision of By-laws related to General Education
      - E. Schultz noted that this might be a fairly prolonged process, so it is not urgent that anything be resolved today. The revisions will be reviewed by a number of sources and once everyone is comfortable with them, they will be presented to the Senate and then discussed at the following meeting.
      - E. Schultz gave an overview of the changes he made to the by-laws. He eliminated a lot of language that he felt does not belong in by-laws.
      - D. Gross had a question regarding language about voting members of GEOC. E. Schultz asked if the committee could hold off on that particular issue for the moment as he wanted to go in order, but he promised that the committee could check the language.
      - It was noted that "set of" was repeated in an early line of the document, so edits were made.
      - K. Tonry felt that the revisions to the original by-laws were much better, even "elegant."
      - There was a question about the number of competencies. These by-law revisions are the method by which the deletion of the Computer Technology competency will be accomplished. That competency is thus not included, hence there are four and not five listed.
      - Slight edits were made to the section on Interdepartmental (INTD) language. It was clarified that there are no Gen Ed UNIV courses.
      - E. Schulz asked if language under section 1.c. with references to what "should" be done needed to be moved to a policy document rather than the by-laws, as it is not appropriate here. T. Meyer indicated that he felt much of the language being deleted needed to be moved to an alternate document to retain the philosophy. E. Schultz said he will move the text in question to a "resolution of policy."

- K. Tonry noted that GAs do teach Gen Ed courses with training, so Gen Ed courses are not always taught by faculty as the document seems to indicate.
- The by-laws should retain the 19-student course limit.
- E. Schultz asked if there was any reason that any academic unit could *not* offer competency courses, as the by-laws currently only specify content areas in this part. G. Nanclares questioned whether this even needed to be stated. T. Meyer said that he could imagine a situation in which one might try to automatically discount a division from offering a course in a particular competency (e.g. Fine Arts trying to offer a Q). To avoid such issues, he felt it might be good to have this spelled out.
- K. Tonry asked to strike the word "Learning" in the section discussing the Writing and Quantitative Centers to avoid confusion with the Learning Center.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Piantek
GEOC Program Assistant