

GEOC Meeting March 28, 2017

Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:

Eric Schultz – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Joseph Abramo, Michael Bradford, Scott Campbell, 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, **Alvaro Lozano-Robledo, Tyler DiBrino (student rep)**

Meeting was called to order at 12:30pm.

1. **Welcome**

2. **Regrets:** Scott Campbell, Bernard Goffinet, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi

3. **The minutes from March 8, 2017 were accepted as submitted.**

4. **Next Meeting: April 4, 2017 (tentative)**

- E. Schultz explained that a tentative meeting was scheduled for next week. He felt that there was sufficient business to warrant meeting, so the April 4 meeting will take place.
- E. Schultz asked A. Lozano-Robledo about presenting the GEOC with some information about the Q Center. A. Lozano-Robledo indicated that he could report.

5. **Announcements**

A. Association of American Colleges and Universities Summer Institute on General Education and Assessment: preparations

- E. Schultz has met with student groups, especially one that is very keen to get some kind of environmental or sustainability competency included in the gen ed curriculum.

B. Communications (aka Gen Ed Charm Offensive)

- E. Schultz has recorded meetings with a number of previous Provost's Competition winners. He will also record the instructors teaching classes, and CETL will help him edit the videos down to 2-3 minutes for the website.
- These videos and a tri-fold information board will be used at the Open House next week. A graphic artist is also creating a logo for general education.

C. Environmental Literacy

- M. Morrell asked if we had discussed an Environmental Literacy component in committee yet. No, E. Schultz has been gathering information, and we were also waiting on whether or not we were accepted to the Summer Institute. E. Schultz noted that he would send the single-page write-up to the GEOC that was sent to the AAC&U for the summer institute.
- M. Morrell asked if this has been mandated. E. Schultz noted that we have not received a formal mandate from the Senate or Senate C&C, but the Senate saw a motion to add Environmental

Literacy to the gen ed curriculum. It came as a proposal to revise the by-laws, and a motion was made to amend it so as to send it to committee first.

- The matter was referred to the Senate C&C with the charge to investigate ways to incorporate environmental literacy. E. Schultz has been gathering very preliminary ideas from students. Because these are so preliminary, he has not brought this to GEOC as an item for discussion yet.
- M. Morrell expressed some concerns about how this would affect certain courses depending on how we proceed.
- A. Lozano-Robledo asked about Digital Information Literacy. E. Schultz indicated that the group will meet tomorrow. The deletion of the computer competency will be part of by-law changes.

D. Expected changes in subcommittee members and co-chairs

- CA1 co-chairs are staying the same, but they have added one new member. More new members are also still needed, and there are some requests out.
- E. Schultz noted that in preparation for the Summer Institute we need to be careful that we are not getting ahead of the schools and colleges. He plans to meet with CLAS.
- CA2 needs a co-chair since Olivier Morand's term is up. This will go to the Senate Nominating Committee.
- CA3 is looking into getting someone from Engineering on the subcommittee.
- CA4 is happy and full.
- Fatma Selampinar's term on the Q subcommittee is over, and one of the subcommittee members has stepped up, James Cole. F. Selampinar will not stay on the subcommittee.
- D. Gross suggested that projected work on the Q assessment might affect whether the subcommittee members want to stay on. E. Schultz does not anticipate that there will be any work until next year.
- Steve Zinn has stepped down from W and Beth Ginsberg has stepped up.

E. Provost's Competition Reception – March 29, 5:00pm, Rowe 420

- There will be a reception for competition winners tomorrow.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A. Digital Information Literacy

- No report.

B. CA1 Report

- a. ENGL 2607 [#658] Literature and Science (Add new CA1) [Awaiting updates]

- No report.

C. CA2 Report

- a. EPSY 1450W Mind Body Health (New CA2, W)
- b. LLAS/SOCI 3525/W Latino Sociology (Add CA2, CA4 and W)

- No report.

D. CA4 Report

- a. MISI 92001 [#2023] Foreign Studies in Military Science (Add CA4-INT to transfer credit shell)
- b. LLAS/SOCI 3525/W Latino Sociology (Add CA2, CA4 and W)

- The MISI course was revised and is making its way back through the system.
- A CA4 report was received late and will be deferred until the next meeting.

E. W Report

- a. CE 4900W Civil Engineering Projects I (Revise prereqs and enrollment restrictions) [Awaiting updates]
- b. COMM 4200W Advanced Interpersonal Communication (New W)
- c. COMM 4222W People of Color and Interpersonal Communication (New W)
- d. EPSY 1450W Mind Body Health (New CA2, W)
- e. LLAS/SOCI 3525/W Latino Sociology (Add CA2, CA4 and W)

- No report.

F. Other

- A. Lozano-Robledo wanted to give an update about the Q data received from OIRE for the assessment. He felt that the data was not what they wanted. Too much of it was related to STEM majors, and we need to see more information about the courses that non-STEM majors are taking.
- E. Schultz said that we would hold off on presenting anything to GEOC until we've had a chance to go back to OIRE and get more information.
- There was some discussion of STATs courses. M. Wagner noted that she teaches statistics in the context of intercultural competence.

7. Old Business (likely to be taken up after New Curricular Action Requests)

A. Revision of By-laws related to General Education

- E. Schultz briefly reviewed past revisions and discussions.
- E. Schultz asked if we "develop policy." T. Dibrino suggested this is what we would be doing with a new Environmental Literacy competency. It was also noted that we set policy regarding syllabi. There was some discussion of whether the word "developing" was appropriate. It was felt that this might suggest we were overstepping. "Proposing" was substituted.
- A. Lozano-Robledo had an issue with the word "delivery." He felt it was more about the structure of the program than the delivery of gen ed. This wording was struck.
- Words were verbed, and language was compacted in the description of GEOC's actions related to course work.

- D. Gross questioned whether we can “evaluate...instructional capacity.” E. Schultz noted that this language was requested related to First Year Writing. It was clarified that GEOC can evaluate, but the text does not claim we have any power to act. Members questioned if GEOC has the right to make statements about whether we feel the university has provided adequate resources.
- This topic prompted discussion about the differences in TA workloads across departments.
- In looking at the original language of this section, there was some discussion of the terms “instructional capacity” versus “resources.” K. Piantek noted as a point of information that from the standpoint of the GEOC annual report, we do quantify the demand for gen ed courses and the standing of instructors who teach gen ed courses.
- A few members expressed concerns about a potential “Pandora’s Box” where departments may come to GEOC to complain about lack of resources and ask for support. M. Wagner said that she didn’t necessarily think being a “squeaky wheel” for the university was a bad thing. There was still some concern that this might become a frequent job. Ultimately the wording was generalized more to avoid the suggestion that GEOC would take specific actions.
- There was discussion of including language about whether or not we can decommission courses from general education that don’t align. There was discussion of wording relating to “monitoring” courses. Text was added to suggest that GEOC could recommend the removal of courses that no longer fulfill gen ed criteria.

8. New Curricular Action Requests

A. ARTH/AFRA 3050/W African American Art (CA4, W) [Revise to add AFRA cross-listing]

- E. Schultz noted that the committee could pass the course on since it is only a cross-listing, but the understanding should be that this will exempt the course from alignment. He asked members if they saw anything that needed to be there that was not there. The proposal looked complete.

Without objection, this course was approved to move to the Senate C&C.

B. COMM 4640W Social Media: Research and Practice (W) [Add new W]

- E. Schultz made some edits to the catalog copy that were approved by both the proposer and CLAS.

Without objection, this course was referred to subcommittee (W).

C. HEJS/HRTS/DRAM 2203 The Holocaust in Print, Theater, and Film (CA1, CA4-INT) [revise to add DRAM cross-listing]

- K. Piantek noted that this course is very recent. GEOC has seen it within the last year.
- There was some question as to why the proposers want to cross-list the course. There is a justification provided, but some members did not necessarily feel it was adequate, as there was no mention of how it might be relevant to DRAM students.

- There was discussion about whether cross-listings would be offered simultaneously in the same semester. D. Gross noted that this was not the way they did things with one of their MATH/STATs courses.
- There was discussion about differences in how or why departments offer cross-listed courses.
- E. Schultz asked if committee members wanted more information about why the cross-listing is being done. No, committee members were curious, but they did not feel the information was necessary.

Without objection, this course was approved to move to the Senate C&C.

9. New Business

A. TBD

10. Business On Hold

B. Next steps on the proposal regarding First Year Writing waivers

Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Piantek
GEOC Program Assistant