

GEOC Meeting March 8, 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 12:33pm.

1. **Welcome**

2. **Regrets:** Manuela Wagner, Gustavo Nanclares, Michael Bradford

3. **The minutes from February 21, 2017 were accepted as submitted.**

4. **Next Meeting: March 28, 2017** (Happy Spring Break!)

5. **Announcements**

A. Alignment Project – Reports are due

- All reports have been received. E. Schultz expressed gratitude to the subcommittees for submitting their reports on time.

B. Assessment

a. Quantitative (Q)

- We have received a substantial report from OIRE. The Q subcommittee is reviewing this information and will report when able.

C. Association of American Colleges and Universities Summer Institute on General Education and Assessment

- We have been accepted and will be sending a 7-person team to Chicago at the end of May.

D. Communicating (aka “The GEOC Charm Offensive”)

- E. Schultz will be engaging in an aggressive campaign about Gen Ed with students prior to heading into the summer institute.
- GEOC will have a table at Open House. E. Schultz also feels as though Gen Ed should have a logo, so we are looking into engaging a student graphic designer to work on this.
- B. Goffinet asked about the plan for the GEOC website in terms of who would be doing it. He felt that designing his own department’s website has been complicated. E. Schultz indicated that CETL has assigned a staff member to us to work on this project.

E. Environmental Literacy

- Students offered to help E. Schultz prepare for the summer institute. This initiative has expanded into a series of meetings with the Learning Communities and Undergraduate Student Government (USG). E. Schultz communicated his meetings with students to the AAC&U, who suggested a series of questions that could be asked of the students.
- E. Schultz also wants to engage faculty before the summer institute, and he has offered to meet with college-level curriculum groups.

F. Provost's Competition Reception

- The winner's reception has been set for Wednesday, March 29 at 5:00pm. All GEOC members are invited to attend.

G. GEOC End of Terms

- K. Piantek will be sending out notices to those whose terms are up.
- The question of term limits was brought up. K. Piantek did not think that regular GEOC members had term limits, only the Chair. *[After meeting note: the Senate by-laws state that GEOC members are limited to two consecutive two-year terms. They can re-enlist after a break.]*

6. Subcommittee Reports

A. Digital Information Literacy

- S. Campbell provided an update on the progress of the development of a Digital Information Literacy competency. There will be a push to more clearly define the concept and give examples of how it can be implemented.
- E. Schultz asked if the committee can provide more detailed information for the GEOC in April. S. Campbell indicated that they could.
- E. Schultz asked about committee membership. S. Campbell indicated that they have six active members.

B. CA1 Report

- a. DRAM 1101 Introduction to Theatre [PDF] (Intensive Session CA1)
- b. ENGL 2607 [#658] Literature and Science (Add new CA1)

- The subcommittee was unable to have a report ready for this meeting, but they will submit a report before the end of the week. GEOC members should expect an email requesting an evote soon. *[Note: A report was submitted the next day and the course DRAM 1101 was approved for intensive session by evote. ENGL 2607 is still awaiting updates from the proposer.]*

C. CA4 Report

- a. MISI 92001 [#2023] Foreign Studies in Military Science (Add CA4-INT to transfer credit shell)

- No report.

D. W Report

- a. CE 4900W Civil Engineering Projects I (Revise prereqs and enrollment restrictions)

b. INDS 4296W Senior Thesis [#2973] (Non-W to W)

- INDS 4296W was recommended for approval. CE 4900W is still pending.
- No discussion.

The W report was passed unanimously. (Revise INDS 4296W).

7. Alignment Reports

A. CA1 Alignment Report

- There was a question about reviewing this report without either of the CA1 co-chairs in attendance, but there was nevertheless some discussion.
- E. Schultz expressed concern over whether the CA1 criteria could really be assessed through things like multiple-choice exams as indicated on some of the forms.
- M. Morrell suggested that we cannot necessarily answer this question without seeing the assignments, and he felt that this might be getting into the realm of “micromanagement” that he was wary of crossing into.
- D. Gross felt that we needed to trust that the subcommittee considered this, but that this concern can be put it on the list of things to discuss as a philosophy for next year.

The CA1 Alignment Report was passed unanimously. (ARAB 1122, CAMS 1103, FREN 1171 aligned.)

B. CA2 Alignment Report

- M. Morrell briefly explained the report.
- There had been some discussion in subcommittee on whether or not all of the broader general education criteria needed to be met since the COMM 1000 course tried to hit them all. Only some need to be met.
- There were some concerns that the course instructor of ENVE 1000 was not a trained social scientist but an engineer. It was ultimately felt that the instructor was qualified and that the course met requirements.
- A. Lozano-Robledo asked if the subcommittee would change its mind about the course if a different instructor was assigned to teach the course next year. He asked if we also need to consider things like textbooks. M. Morrell explained the discussion the subcommittee had about this issue. Ultimately it was determined that the course met CA2 criteria based on the syllabus.
- E. Schultz reminded members that Senate by-laws specifically state that any department can teach any Gen Ed content area, so we cannot necessarily assume that an out-of-department instructor is not qualified. There was some additional discussion, and E. Schultz noted that this may need to be a larger discussion with CLAS in particular.

The CA2 Alignment Report was passed unanimously. (COMM 1000, ENVE 1000 aligned.)

C. CA4 Alignment Report

- No discussion. (Courses already discussed for CA1.)

The CA4 Alignment Report was passed unanimously. (ARAB 1122, FREN 1171 aligned.)

D. Q Alignment Report

- D. Gross explained the report and some of his subcommittee's discussions. There was discussion within the subcommittee about how much Q is needed for Q-ness.
- One subcommittee member had taken a kind of informal recusal in discussing one course from his department, and this prompted E. Schultz to express some concerns he had about conflicts of interest.

Q Alignment Report was passed unanimously. (STAT 1100, COMM 3000Q aligned.)

E. W Alignment Report

- A. Engler gave an overview of the report.
- There was some discussion of whether a full syllabus should be required for a thesis course, as well as a question about whether all thesis instructors are qualified to teach writing pedagogy. E. Schultz noted that thesis courses are about writing in the major, so instructors are qualified in that respect, and he felt that anyone who teaches a thesis course should make an effort to learn what they can about writing in order to direct student efforts.
- There was some discussion about whether departments should be asked to create a thesis syllabus template for the department use.
- E. Schultz noted that for the FREN 3270W, one of the syllabi only potentially required 14 pages if you looked at the minimum page ranges.
- M. Morrell asked what GEOC's recourse is if a course does not align. K. Piantek noted that at this time the committee does not have any recourse, but she noted that we can build a mechanism into the by-laws that would give us power to decommission Gen Ed courses. This would then need to be approved by the Senate.

W Alignment Report was passed unanimously. (AH 4240W, COMM 2310W, ENVE 4910W, FREN 3270W, KINS 3530W aligned. CAMS 3242W, COGS 4596W, LAND 3230W, STAT 3494W did not align).

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

A. Revision of By-laws related to General Education

- Business was deferred.

9. New Curricular Action Requests

A. COMM 4200W Advanced Interpersonal Communication [#3157] (New W)

- E. Schultz noted that he slightly revised the catalog copy to include prereqs.
- M. Morrell flagged an issue he saw in the number of pages of actual revised writing required.

This course was referred to subcommittee (W).

- B. COMM 4222W People of Color and Interpersonal Communication [#2693] (New W)
- E. Schultz explained some correspondence with the proposer and noted that the W subcommittee would probably need some additional discussion.
 - E. Schultz will forward emails from proposer to the subcommittee.

This course was referred to subcommittee (W).

- C. ECE 2001W Electrical Circuits [#3095] (Revise pre-req W)
- The syllabus was missing some key elements.

Without objection the committee decided to send the course back to the proposer for updates (W).

- D. EEB 4276W Plant Anatomy [#2634] (Delete W)
- There was brief discussion of the proposer's plans related to offering a non-W version of the course.

Without objection, the committee approved moving the course along to the Senate C&C.

- E. EPSY 1450W Mind Body Health [#499] (New CA2 and W)
- B. Goffinet expressed some concern over the length of parts of the CAR which appear to be copied and pasted from the syllabus rather than independently drafted.

This course was referred to subcommittee (CA2, W).

- F. LLAS/SOCI 3525/W Latino Sociology [#2913] (Add CA2 & CA4, and add W section)
- E. Schultz made a note that the CA2 and CA4 appear to have been omitted from the catalog copy for the W version.

This course was referred to subcommittee (CA2, CA4, & W).

- G. CSE 2300 Digital Design Logic [#2993]
- **NOTE:** The proposers would like to create a non-W section of the course. They do not plan to offer the W again. The Senate C&C has currently tabled the non-W version of the course, but there is some uncertainty about how to deal with the W section. It can either be quarantined or deleted. GEOC should consider this course in the context of a deletion, since the course revision document aims to change the W to a non-W.

{The GEOC did not have time to review this proposal. It will be carried over to the next meeting.}

10. Business On Hold

- A. Next steps on the proposal regarding First Year Writing waivers

Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Piantek
GEOC Program Assistant