

GEOC Meeting October 7, 2011

In Attendance: Murphy Sewall, Anabel Perez, Elizabeth Jockusch, Rosa Helena Chinchilla, Suresh Nair, Erin Eighan, Françoise Dussart, Eric Schultz, Robert Cromley, Peter Kaminsky, Mike Young, John Ayers.

Not Present: Richard Jones, Robert Stephens, Tom Roby, Wally Madych, Sarah Winter, Alex Shvartsman. Xae Alicia Reyes, Tom Deans, Olivier Morand.

Meeting called to order at 11:05am.

1. Minutes of the September 19, 2011 meeting

Motion to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded.

Motion carried with one abstention.

2. Announcements

- *Subcommittee membership*
 - IL Subcommittee: Francine DeFranco has stepped down from this subcommittee; Shikha Sharma, Library Research Services, will replace her.

Motion approved.
- *Meeting with OIR.* Murphy Sewall met with Pam Roelfs and Kathryn Hayden of OIR to discuss GEOC data gathering requests. The hope is that data can be presented to the GEOC by the end of the Fall semester on the following items previously discussed by GEOC members:
 - W courses exceeding the 19-student enrollment cap
 - Snapshot of CA3 Lab course enrollment figures,
 - Goal is to determine if there are sufficient seats in CA3 lab courses to meet student need.
 - Murphy Sewall reported that the CLAS Dean's Office is asking CLAS departments to report on courses where instructors receive over-enrollment requests to identify courses facing enrollment pressures (some which may be gen ed).
 - While not all departments currently use the Wait List feature in PeopleSoft, Wait List data should be considered to get an accurate enrollment picture.
 - Study Abroad courses, specifically those that transfer back to UConn without a direct UConn course equivalent and receive gen ed credit.
 - Transfer Admissions courses, specifically those courses that transfer to UConn with a generic transfer number (e.g. 91000) but receive gen ed credit. This request excludes those courses that transfer in as direct equivalents of UConn gen ed courses. Gen ed decisions at the point of transfer are made by staff in the Transfer Admission office.
 - Is it reasonable to request that the Senate approve a moratorium on Transfer Admissions making gen ed determinations?
 - If a moratorium was approved, it could cause delays in degree progress for students close to graduation.
 - The suggestion was made that a "quick action" decision process be created for those needing a quick decision on a gen ed transfer.
 - The important question is: How many students are completing or almost completing their gen ed curriculum from transfer credit alone?
 - The number of UConn students who, as non-matriculated students, have taken gen courses in high school, mostly through ECE. Specifically, how many students are receiving gen ed credit for courses taught by high school instructors?
 - Grade frequency distribution analysis of second year students taking ENGL courses to determine if there is academic evidence that there is a marked difference in student performance between those who completed freshmen English at UConn, through ECE, by transfer credit, or by AP credit
 - One GEOC member suggested a new request: **How many of the gen ed courses are taken exclusively online?**

Discussion points:

- The primary motivation for this data collection exercise is to better understand the enrollment needs for gen ed courses.
 - GEOC is charged with overseeing the gen ed curriculum and the items above aim to ensure that the program is working in the way the Senate intended.
 - GEOC should be proactive in making sure that the current gen ed system is working.
 - “Oversight” data collection is different than “Research” data collection.
 - There should be widespread University access to this information.
- *Meeting with VP Doug Cooper.* Nothing to report at this time.
 - *University Curriculum Advisory Council.* Murphy Sewall has been working with CLAS C&CC Chair, Bob Michel, to discuss the study abroad application process. Dr. Michel is working to convene a committee of school/college C&CC chairs to discuss University-wide concerns.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Writing Competency

The W subcommittee recommends **provisional approval** (for Wintersession 2012 only) of the following course for teaching in the intensive session **PENDING changes in the proposal**:

ARE 3440W Writing in Environmental Policy

Changes requested include (from the W subcomm report):

- “Have the final paper due not on the last day of classes, as the current syllabus states, but a day or two later. That way the final class could be used as a real class session. (If students submit papers on the final day, what is there to do in class then? That would mean that there are really only 12 teaching sessions.) Also, students would have a day or two more to write and revise.
- Get the student presentations back into the schedule of classes by scheduling the one-on-one meetings *outside* of class time (the original syllabus is vague on this, but it looks like in-class time might be used for conferences on Jan 10 and 11).”

Motion carried with one opposed.

CA2 Social Science

The CA2 subcommittee **does NOT recommend approval** of the following course for teaching in the intensive session:

ARE 1150 Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Motion carried.

Discussion:

- The course was intended for offering exclusively online during the intensive session.
- CA2 subcommittee members were not convinced that there is sufficient time in the intensive session to maintain academic rigor in an online format. The instructor response time (to cycle back to student) as described in the proposal does not appear adequate for the condensed version of the course; the proposed timing is the same as that for the 6 week summer session.
- The GEOC does not require special approval for offering of courses in an online format. There is a University committee focused on creating criteria for online courses, but as they have not yet set standards that GEOC can use to evaluate online courses, the GEOC has decided to hold off on making any decisions about additional review for online courses.
- Two important considerations:
 - Timing in a 3-week course cannot be the same as that of a 16-week course. This is a problem that needs to be addressed.

- The content of the course cannot be changed between the online and in-class intensive session course offerings.

Editorial Changes

The Department of Art and Art History has requested the following editorial changes to the titles of 4 gen ed courses:

ARTH 1137 Introduction to Art History I

Catalog description: Survey of art and architecture from prehistoric times through the 14th century

Proposed new title: INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY: PREHISTORIC-14TH CENTURY

ARTH 1138 Introduction to Art History II

Catalog description: Survey of art and architecture from the 15th Century to the present day

Proposed new title: INTRODUCTION TO ART HISTORY: 15TH CENTURY-PRESENT

ARTH 3460W History of Photography I

Catalog description: Topics in the history of photography from 1839 to World War I

Proposed new title: HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY , 1839-WORLD WAR I

ARTH 3560W History of Photography II

Catalog description: Topics in the history of photography from World War I to the present.

Proposed new title: ARTH 3560W HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY, WORLD WAR I-PRESENT

Motion to approve the title changes proposed above pending approval by the School of Fine Arts C&CC.

Motion carried.

4. Reports and Discussion

MCAGE process

With a limited number of MCAGE proposals expected this year, a review process should be in place to ensure that all relevant subcommittees are reviewing the same version of a proposal and have an opportunity to discuss how particular CA/COMP subcommittee recommended revisions, if any, would affect other gen ed components of the course.

Discussion:

- Review of these courses will require that the GEOC subcommittees be in contact with each other. These proposals have the potential to include lots of moving parts.
- Proposals should be reviewed as they are now, simultaneously and individually (by subcommittee). If a revision is recommended by a particular subcommittee, the chairs of the subcommittees can discuss how the proposed revision would impact the other gen ed portions of the course.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anabel Perez
GEOC Administrator