

GEOC Meeting January 30, 2013

In attendance:

Mike Young – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Eric Schultz – Ex-Officio, Tom Abbott, Tom Meyer, Peter Kaminsky, Scott Campbell, Kathleen Tonry, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Mary Ellen Junda, Gustavo Nanclares, Michelle San Pedro, Laurent Michele, Fatma Selampinar, Stephanie Milan

Not present:

Richard Jones, Olivier Morand, Charles Mahoney, Ana Maria Diaz-Marcos, Wally Madych

Meeting called to order at 9:33am.

1. Minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting

The minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting were accepted.

2. Announcements

A. 2014 Institute on General Ed Conference at University of Vermont

- M. Young suggested that the GEOC consider sending a 5-person team to the conference in June; there did not appear to be any resistance to the idea. M. Young will therefore contact GEOC members via email to see who would like to go.
- It was suggested that Sally Reis should be contacted to weigh in on the idea and could possibly even attend, since an administrator is encouraged as part of the team.

B. Content Area/Competency Revisions:

- The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) asked to be informed of potential large changes coming down the pipelines before they reach the Senate as motions. This applies to potential changes to the GEOC guidelines.
- M. Young indicated that revisions to CA and Competency guidelines would need to reach the SEC by March in order to be considered for the Fall, so it seems unlikely that the GEOC will be able to tackle changes this Spring. M. Young asked all committees to review their guidelines and decide whether or not they will undertake revision in the Fall.

C. Info Literacy and Computer Literacy Competency overhaul

- SEC will also need notice of this initiative. There are healthy conversations happening, but the committee doesn't anticipate any final plans by March.

D. GEOC Member Reappointments

- GEOC members who were listed on the agenda as up for reappointment were asked to contact Karen and Mike and let them know as soon as possible whether they wished to continue for another 2-year term.

4. Subcommittee Reports

CA4 –

Discussion:

- The CA4 committee recommended approval of DRAM 3132, DRAM 3133 and JUDS 1104; it did not recommend approval of NRE 3674 and NRE 3675 for reasons explained in their report.
- T. Meyer asked that he be CCed on correspondence with the proposer of the NRE courses when the CA4 committee contacts them. He will help ensure that the courses meet their requirements before being resubmitted.

CA4 Report passed unanimously as submitted.

CA1 –

- The CA1 committee recommended approval of JUDS 1104 and DRAM 3132 with a note that JUDS 1104 needed an assessment and grading break down in the syllabus. P. Kaminsky will convey this to the proposers.
- E. Schultz thanked the subcommittee for their efforts to make sure that syllabi are complete before they go to the Senate C&C.
- There was some objection to passing JUDS 1104 without the corrected syllabus, so the GEOC voted on the CA1 report in parts.

JUDS 1104 passed with one Nay vote.

DRAM 2132 passed unanimously.

W –

- BME 3600W submitted information that was missing from their proposal and the W subcommittee now recommends approval of the course.
- There has been no further official movement on the issue with Freshman English; S. Campbell indicated that it doesn't look like any more waivers will need to be issued for Fall 2014 at this point.
- The budget for the 1-credit W Assessment was approved. The proposal is going through IRB but under an expedited review.
- The assessment is a continuation of previous W assessment activities; there is interest in finding out if 1-credit Ws are successful or differently successful than other Ws. No grades will be collected this time, however, and a selection of essays will be examined closely in a "deep audit." One member asked if this deep audit will look at the revision history of the essays selected. The answer was that, No, it would not. It was suggested that doing so might be a good idea at some point.
- T. Long noted that the School of Business has opted out of the review, which is "concerning" for many members of the GEOC. There was discussion as to what recourse there might be when this occurs.

Report approved unanimously as submitted.

4. Reports and Discussion

A. Course Realignment

- The GEOC was informed that all expected alignment forms have been completed except one. This prompted discussion as to whether realignment is required. If so, is there a punitive action for departments that do not comply? It was noted that GEOC does not have the power to "decommission" noncompliant courses. It was suggested that GEOC review a history of literature on alignment and then have a discussion with SEC.
- One member questioned whether subcommittees were supposed to review the old CAR and syllabus in order to compare them to the current version of the course. Even if the course has been improved, comparison would be good, as this might prompt discussion with the department on if they want to update their documentation of the course.
- It was suggested that a short informational cover page be sent to all subcommittees to get everyone on the same page; subcommittees should then submit a realignment report to document changes for better or for worse in courses.
- The question of how to ensure compliance was again asked. It was felt that small courses would feel more pressure to comply with recommendations, while large courses would not.
- A deadline of March 27, 2014 was established to complete all alignment reviews.

B. Provost's Competition

- M. Young will chair the competition review committee
- T. Long and G. Nanclares agreed to serve on the review committee as well.

- It was noted that many CA3 and 2000-level course proposals were received in response to the competition announcement request
- It was also noted that there were a lots of travel requests. Some members questioned why travel was necessary to develop or improve a course. M. E. Junda noted that 1000 and 2000 level courses cover very broad areas, so there is a credibility factor in terms of presenting adequate information; she felt that sometimes travel was necessary to bring authenticity to the material.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51am.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Piantek
GEOC Administrator

Appendixes:

CA1 sub-committee Report

1) DRAM 3132: African-American Women Playwrights, 1900-present
Emphasizes the comprehension of African-American drama, with attention to both dramaturgy and the historical and social contexts in which these works were written and staged. Its attention to the varieties of human experience includes consideration of such concerns as colorism, community, sexuality, colonialism, freedom, history, miscegenation, violence, and economic oppression (all of which have implications for this course's larger attention to human rights issues). As such, it addresses the CAR1 criteria pertaining to the analysis of human experience and the comprehension of written and performance art forms.

Accept as submitted.

2) JUDS 1104: Modern Jewish Thought
Addresses the first criterion for CAR1, the analysis of human experience, by "examining the development of modern Jewish thought within the framework of historical changes, demonstrating to students the historically contingent nature of intellectual trends, how they reflect and react to changes in historical conditions." Additionally, it addresses the second criterion, inquiries into philosophical or political theory, to the degree that its readings "deal explicitly with philosophical matters and, frequently, with political questions."

While the course and the syllabus are fine w. respect to content and organization, the syllabus does not include any assessment / grade breakdown. While we believe this is just an oversight, we recommend addition of assessment detail to the syllabus.

CA4 Subcommittee Report: Thursday, January 30, 2014

Respectfully submitted by Mary Ellen Junda, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Joseph Abramo
The [CA4] Subcommittee recommends approving the following new course proposals:
DRAM 3132: African American Women Playwrights, 1900-the present

Fulfills:

1. Emphasize that there are varieties of human experiences, perceptions, thoughts, values, and/or modes of creativity;
2. Emphasize that interpretive systems and/or social structures are cultural creations;

DRAMA 3133: Latina/o Theatre

Fulfills:

1. Emphasize that there are varieties of human experiences, perceptions, thoughts, values, and/or modes of creativity;

2. Emphasize that interpretive systems and/or social structures are cultural creations

JUDS/HEB 1104: Modern Jewish Thought

Fulfills;

1and 2

4. Develop an understanding of and sensitivity to issues involving human rights and migration

The CA4 Subcommittee does NOT recommend approving the following course proposals for CA4 INT:

NRE 3674 Introduction to Environmental and Natural Resources of China

The committee members agree that the study of environment and natural resources in China provides an international perspective. However, this proposal did not include specific details about how the CA 4 student learning outcomes would be achieved. There is a lack of content with much of the course dedicated to preparation for a study abroad trip to China. The members of CA4 recommend that the proposal include specific details of the course including student-learning objectives, course content (including readings and assignment) and a thorough method of assessment. The faculty member should consider other proposals that have met the CA4 criteria to use as a model.

NRE 3675: Environmental and Natural Resources of China

The committee members agree that a study abroad course in China provides an international perspective. Although the students learning objectives were clearly stated, 80% of the assessment is based on "participation" with no description of what participation entails. Additional course assignments and evaluation procedures are needed to qualify as a general education course.

GEOC W Subcommittee Report 2014 January 30

Continuing Business

BME 3600W. Lisa Ephraim, submitter of a revision to BME 3600W, has provided the information requested in the CAR form. We recommend approval.

First-Year English. Aside from informal conversations about what appears to be a shifting landscape, the co-chairs have not met to write a formal response.

W Course Assessment (1-credit courses). Aside from conversations with Tom Deans late in the Fall 2013 term, we have no further information about the proposed process.

Course Alignment. The co-chairs will meet to map out an action plan.

New Business

Courses Pending Review. The following courses await our review:

ANSC 3317W

EKIN/EDLR 3547W

URBN 4497W

MCB 3602W

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Lawrence Long (Nursing) & Kathleen Tonry (English) - Co-chairs