

GEOC Meeting April 27, 2016

*Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:*

Mike Young – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Joseph Abramo, **Pam Bedore (Sen C&C ex-officio),** Michael Bradford, **Scott Campbell,** Ana Maria Diaz-Marcos, **Arthur Engler, Bernard Goffinet, David Gross,** Thomas Meyer, Stephanie Milan, Olivier Morand, **Gustavo Nanclares, Fatma Selampinar, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Manuela Wagner, Steve Zinn,** Shabaz Khan (student rep), Michael Morrell (New CA2 for Fall)

Guests: **Robert Thorson, Lisa Park Boush, Katherine Capshaw, John Bell, and Eric Schultz**

Meeting was called to order at 10:36am.

1. The minutes from April 13, 2016 were accepted unanimously.

2. Announcements

A. The GEOC Annual Report was submitted to the University Senate

- M. Young indicated that GEOC's only main action this year aside from processing courses requests was the deletion of the Computer Technology competency. However, given that General Education is currently under review, the Senate Executive Committee would like to hold off on moving forward with this deletion until next year.
- It was noted that one finding of the Task Force's review of General Education is that students want more instruction in life skills (e.g. financial literacy), which faculty are not eager to include in General Education.
- B. Goffinet asked about what the process is for Gen Ed next year. A working group will likely be formed to collaborate with GEOC next year to put forth some motions to the Senate related to Gen Ed reform.

3. Provost's Competition Year 1 and Final Reports

A. Year 1 Report – Robert Thorson and Lisa Park Boush

- Robert Thorson introduced himself and gave the GEOC an overview of the work his department did on the Geosciences 1000-level course sequence. He provided a handout for the GEOC's reference.
- R. Thorson noted that his department met with all of the advising groups on campus to discuss their courses.
- A textbook was created specifically for the lab of one of the courses and was distributed at an academic conference.
- The Geoscience facilities are also being renovated.
- R. Thorson noted that this project will be leading towards a 2000-level course sequence revision.
- L. Park Boush introduced herself and thanked the GEOC for supporting this project.

B. Year 1 Report – Pamela Bedore and Katherine Capshaw

- P. Bedore gave a brief overview of the development of the graphic novel course she and Katherine Capshaw proposed.

- K. Capshaw has taught a version of course already, and the course will be on the schedule next year as a non-Gen Ed in the Spring in order to work out the details.
- D. Gross suggested working with the cultural centers to promote the course; he felt that the combination of language and graphics in the texts might be helpful to international students trying to improve their English.
- M. Young asked if students will have to create a graphic novel. P. Bedore said that she will have her students create one graphic panel.
- M. Young suggested that the question of whether the graphic construction element of the course would count toward page count for W is interesting. P. Bedore assured GEOC that there would be 15 pages of writing in addition to the panel.

C. Year 1 Report – John Bell

- John Bell introduced himself and began by giving some thoughts he had related to the presentation given by R. Thorson, including Marvin Minsky’s study of artificial intelligence and its relationship to the world of puppetry.
- J. Bell noted that the course will be taught in the Fall as a Special Topics.
- The goal of the course is to explore dimensions of object performance. The topics covered will include intercultural performance, Jim Henson and the Muppets, religion, politics, history, technology/machine aesthetics/robots, toy theater, sports (e.g. mascots), and puppet therapy. The course will look at how puppetry connects to a lot of different fields. The book *Strings, Hands, Shadows* by John Bell will be used.
- D. Gross noted that everything in the course sounds great, but he was wondering if this course would be more than three credits given that it attempts to cover so much. J. Bell indicated that, no, the course would only be three credits. Some GEOC members did express concern that the course might be biting off a little too much, and J. Bell thanked them for this feedback.

D. Final Report – Eduardo Urios-Aparisi (and Ana Maria Marcos-Diaz)

- E. Urios-Aparisi gave an update on the progress of their course. The only problem has been enrollment, but the course will be offered again in the May intensive session.
- E. Urios-Aparisi indicated that the purpose of the course is to help students reflect on and understand their own cultures by studying Spanish culture.
- They are considering a title revision since the current title doesn’t necessarily reflect the contents of the class at this time.
- P. Bedore suggested advertising to the regional campuses given that the course is fully online.

E. Year 1 Report – Laura Burton (Could not attend)

- No discussion.

F. Final Report – Ellen Carillo (Could not attend)

- No discussion.

G. Final Report – Kyle Hadden and Marcy Balunas (Could not attend)

- No discussion.

4. Old Business

A. Gen Ed Task Force updates – Pam Bedore

- P. Bedore confirmed that the reported has been handed off to the Senate Executive Committee and will be reviewed on Friday.
- B. Digital Information Literacy competency
- There is nothing new to report. There is a recommendation in the GEOC annual report to design a new Digital Information Literacy competency as a replacement for the Computer Technology competency. The report also suggests that the First Year Writing experience needs to be clarified.
 - E. Schultz expressed his desire to more fully explore the background for First Year Writing.
 - M. Young noted that there are forces beyond GEOC at work in how First Year Writing is implemented, especially budgetary ones.
 - M. Young noted that the word “competency” is a loaded word in education nowadays, and there is a disconnect between the modern academic understanding of the term and how UConn’s system works.
- C. Honors MOU
- P. Bedore gave a brief review of the MOU with Honors. In response to some committee members’ concerns about Honors-only courses, E. Schultz noted that no students are closed out of these courses; the new guidelines just ensure that a conversation will happen between students and instructors so that there is an understanding about the work load required.
 - Several members did express some concern about capable students being denied entry into courses at the will of the instructor.

The MOU was approved with one Nay vote.

- D. Next steps on the proposal regarding First Year Writing waivers – On hold until after Task Force review

5. Subcommittee Reports

A. CA2 Report

- There was a question as to whether all of the courses were being proposed as both W and non-W versions. M. Morrell explained that POLS requires instructors to propose W versions of all courses in order to be sure that they always have enough W courses to offer if needed.

The report was accepted unanimously (Add POLS 3211/W, MAST 1300)

B. CA4 Report (No report; course needs revision)

- E. Urios-Aparisi noted that the CA4 subcommittee did not approve the course in its queue at this time; they asked the proposer for revisions.

C. Q Report

- D. Gross summarized the Q report.

The report was accepted unanimously (Add ECON 2211Q, ECON 2212Q)

D. W Report

- A. Engler summarized the W report. He noted that he has not received updates from FINA yet.

The report was accepted unanimously (Revise SOCI 1251/W, SOCI 3503/W, SOCI 3601/W)

6. New Business

A. Acknowledgement of Michael Young's 3-year service as GEOC Chair

- The committee acknowledged M. Young's service as GEOC Chair and presented him with a small token of appreciation.

B. Introduction of the new GEOC Chair, Eric Schultz

- E. Schultz was introduced as the new GEOC Chair and gave a general overview of his goals for next year.
- He noted that he would like to meet with individual subcommittee chairs to discuss issues or concerns. He will be in contact over the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58am.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Piantek
GEOC Program Assistant