

GEOC Meeting April 28, 2015

In attendance:

Mike Young – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Tom Meyer, Arthur Engler, Michael Bradford, Scott Campbell, Tom Abbott, Gustavo Nanclares, David Gross, Stephanie Milan, Ana Maria Diaz-Marcos, Fatma Selampinar

Regrets:

Joseph Abramo, Eric Schultz, Manuela Wagner, JC Beall, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi

Guests:

Katrina Higgins, Maria Ana O'Donoghue, Kyle Hadden, Marcy Balunas

Meeting called to order at 12:35pm.

1. Minutes of April 14, 2015 meeting – Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Old Business

- A. Revision of a “Digital Information Literacy” competency; deletion of Computer Technology competency; Assessment Project: Info Lit Survey and Interviews
 - Emails are going out to faculty who have been flagged as teaching Information Literacy courses. The email will direct them to a survey. Please respond to the survey if you receive one of these emails.
- B. 2014-15 Course Re-alignment – Report was submitted to the Senate C&C
 - No discussion.
- C. Next steps on the proposal regarding First Year Writing waivers – First data was received from OIRE
 - The first round of data received from OIRE did not tell us much. The data was largely the mean GPAs for students across their college careers who were waived out of First Year Writing versus those who were not. Not surprisingly, the GPAs for the former were higher than the latter.
 - S. Campbell explained parts of the data that were included in Annual Report.
- D. Modification of the Implementation section of the Gen Ed Guidelines – Draft was approved via email.
 - No discussion
- E. GEOC Annual Report draft (attachment)
 - M. Young summarized the report and asked the GEOC to submit any final edits or recommendations before the report was submitted to the Senate.

3. Subcommittee Reports

- A. W Report
 - The W subcommittee reported unofficially that there were no responses from proposers on the courses still in question.

4. New Business

A. Adding generic transfer courses to the list of GEOC-approved transfer course substitutions; Guests Katrina Higgins and Ana O'Donoghue

- Katrina Higgins and Maria Ana O'Donoghue explained a proposal on which they were requesting GEOC action.
- At the time new Gen Ed courses were introduced, certain transfer credits were automatically given Gen Ed content area status, i.e. they were pre-approved Gen Ed substitutions.
- Originally there were no CA4 substitutions, but many transfer institutions have since added diversity and multicultural courses to their curriculums.
- K. Higgins asked the GEOC to add certain courses to a list of pre-approved courses to get Gen Ed credit under certain categories.
- M.A. O'Donoghue explained her role in the transfer credit process; she noted that UConn maintains an extensive database of outside courses.
- GEOC members asked questions to clarify the transfer credit process.
- It was noted that normal composition courses (101, 102) at the community colleges come in as the equivalent of First Year Writing; sometimes students will come in with an extra ENGL upper-level course that transfers in as a W.
- It was clarified that if GEOC does not approve the request being made of them, each course would need to be evaluated on an individual basis at the school and college level. This request is being made of GEOC to ensure consistency in the transfer credit equivalency process, i.e. if a student in CLAS is getting credit for a course, students in other schools or colleges should be as well.
- One member suggested that maybe a "sunset clause" is needed, but the process for this would be unclear. Nevertheless, the committee was in general agreement that there needs to be a mechanism for making sure courses maintain their Gen Ed status over time.
- K. Higgins noted that four things that can happen to a transfer course when it is received by UConn: 1) no credit is awarded, 2) generic credit is awarded when there is no direct equivalent for the course, 3) the course is transferred in as a direct equivalent to an existing UConn course, and 4) the course transfers in as generic credit but is deemed to also fulfill a Gen Ed requirement. It is courses in this last category that the GEOC is currently being asked to consider.
- M. Young noted that he will ask CA1, CA3, and CA4 to review the courses proposed for addition to the list and the GEOC will vote on them in the Fall 2015.
- K. Higgins thanked the GEOC for their consideration and requested that these courses be "fast-tracked" so they can be approved within the next five years.

B. 2014 Provost's Competition Winner Report from Kyle Hadden and Marcy Balunas (PHAR 1005)

- K. Hadden discussed the beginnings of the course. He noted that the first time it was offered it originally had an enrollment of 10, but then that number dropped to 5, and the course was canceled. They were wondering what the problem was.
- The course was trying to target non-science majors, but 3 of the 5 students previously enrolled were science majors.
- They are going to try and run the course again in Spring 2016, and they are looking for feedback on ways to get more students signed up.

- GEOC members offered some advice to boost enrollment, but they also noted that low enrollment the first time a course is offered is common and that it becomes less of a problem over time.
- T. Abbott suggested the course as a possible alternative for more traditional avenues. S. Milan suggested targeting PYSC majors, and M. Bradford said he thought this would be great for students in the School of Fine Arts but he hadn't heard anything about the course when it was first offered.
- K. Hadden noted that a previous Toxicology course used to draw 300+ students before it was discontinued.

C. 2014 Provost's Competition Winner Report from Ana Maria Marcos-Diaz (SPAN 1020)

- A.M. Diaz-Marcos explained that the course was supposed to be offered online this summer for the first time. They were not originally concerned about enrollment numbers to start, but now they are. She noted that she was on sabbatical this semester so she could not help recruit.
- A.M. Diaz-Marcos and co-instructor Eduardo Urios-Aparasi are considering approval of the course for offering in the intensive session so that it can be offered in January.
- She noted that their work on the course has been an amazing experience from a professional development standpoint.
- S. Campbell suggested that the transferability of the course might be of concern for students in the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Piantek

GEOC Administrator