

# GEOC Meeting January 24, 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 12:34pm.

### 1. **Welcome**

2. **Regrets:** Kathleen Tonry, Scott Campbell

3. **The minutes from November 29, 2016 were accepted as submitted.**

### 4. **Announcements**

#### A. Provost's Course Development Competition winners

- a. Hassanaly Ladha for CLCS 1XXX Introduction to Islam (CA1, CA4-INT)
- b. Michael Orwicz for ARTH/HRTS 3575W Human Rights, Digital Media and Visual Culture (CA1, W)
- c. Robert Milvae for ANSC 1XXX Human Reproductive Biology and Society (CA3)
- d. Alaina Brenick et al. for HDFS 3141 Developmental Approaches to Intergroup Relations and Victimization (CA2, CA4)
  - E. Schultz gave an update on the winners of the competition. The selected proposals represent all Gen Ed areas except for Q.

#### B. Alignment Project – Packets will be sent out this week to subcommittee co-chairs

- E. Schultz noted that one or two instructors still have not turned in materials, and we are tracking them down.
- K. Piantek noted that she will send out packets this week or early next.
- M. Morrell asked about timelines. K. Piantek noted that the GEOC needs to report on the assessment for the April Senate meeting, so the final deadline will likely be in early March.
- E. Schultz asked members to report on their experiences from last year. Some issues that members noted were with syllabus-to-CAR alignment and regional campus differences.
- E. Schultz said that he will revisit alignment minutes from last year to identify any major questions or potential issues.

#### C. Communication:

##### a. Gen Ed table at Open House

- E. Schultz will man a table at the Spring Open House (early April), which is normally for families whose students have been accepted to UConn
- G. Nanclares asked if there will be written materials. E. Schultz agreed that materials will probably be necessary. GEOC committee members advanced others ideas for bringing people to the table.

- b. Meeting with Learning Communities
    - E. Schultz will meet with the Learning Communities faculty advisors to get some feedback and ideas on General Education.
    - M. Wagner indicated that she might be interested in going with E. Schultz to the meeting depending on the time.
  - c. Podcast
    - Schultz explained his ideas for a podcast. The podcast would likely include interviews with faculty, starting with provost competition winners.
    - E. Schultz also requested help finding a name for the podcast, preferably something with the word “sapient” in it.
    - B. Goffinet asked what the goal of the podcast would be. E. Schultz indicated that it was essentially PR. The university community at large seems to dislike Gen Ed, so this would be a focused attempt to provide a better understanding the need for Gen Ed and to create interest. The focus may be more on the advantages of a liberal arts education overall.
  - d. General Education website
    - The current website is very technical, so we are looking to redesign the website to make it more inviting and user-friendly. E. Schultz and K. Piantek will attend a meeting with CETL next week.
  - e. Listservs of GEOC instructors
    - E. Schultz has created listservs that allow him to communicate with instructors teaching General Education courses.
- D. Assessment
- a. Quantitative (Q)
    - A number of key people recently had a meeting to plan the Q assessment. OIRE was there, and a plan was developed for identifying key courses for assessment.
    - M. Bradford asked what the goal for this first phase was. E. Schultz noted that the goal was to find the degree to which there are learnable outcomes in these key courses and then eventually compare student work to see that students are meeting these outcomes.
    - A. Lozano-Robledo noted that the goal for the Quantitative Competency is only that students need to complete two Q courses. There is a need to identify broader purposes.
    - B. Goffinet pointed out that while we want to spread the word about Gen Ed, there are cases such as this where the info is incomplete or unclear. E. Schultz acknowledged the concern but felt that he would not be in danger of giving out inaccurate information in what he is planning.
    - T. DiBrino suggested that a mission statement is needed. E. Schultz noted that general goals for general education are established but need some revision.
  - b. Writing (W)
    - The proposed assessment will largely be a look at W courses in EEB, particularly thesis courses
    - E. Schultz noted that instructors don’t seem to realize senior thesis courses are often W courses. E. Schultz asked what members thought about assessing thesis courses.
    - S. Zinn felt that thesis courses by nature meet the W requirements. He noted that student work is often reviewed by more people than a normal course, and that if theses aren’t meeting requirements that’s a departmental issue.
    - E. Schultz noted that his main concern is the extent to which students are getting writing pedagogy and instruction.

- S. Zinn agreed with this concern to an extent, but he felt that if we were to examine pedagogy, most W courses would not meet that requirement according to his standards. He felt that in general there were more urgent areas of need for assessment.
- A. Lozano-Robledo noted that we need to consider the time commitments and constraints for thesis instructors who don't receive any compensation for overseeing these projects.

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

- E. Schultz noted that he is putting together a delegation who will apply to attend the institute.

**5. Subcommittee Reports**

A. CA1 Report

a. HEJS/CLCS 2301 Jewish Humor (Add new)

- There was some confusion about the process for subcommittee review, so CA1 did not have a report prepared. The process was clarified and they will have a report ready for next time. [NOTE: This course was later approved by evote]

B. CA4 Report

a. ENGL 2301/W World Literature in English (Title revision) – [CAR has been REVISED as requested]

b. HEJS/CLCS 2301 Jewish Humor (Add new)

- E. Urios-Aparisi gave a brief overview of the report.
- E. Schultz explained the new process for course review to new and returning members who could not attend any meetings in the Fall.
- S. Zinn expressed concern that proposers are not aware this is a two-step process. K. Piantek noted that she can include more explanation on the process when accepting proposals in the CAR.

**S. Zinn motioned to accept the report. The motion to approve the CA4 report passed unanimously. (Revise ENGL 2301/W; Add HEJS/CLCS 2301).**

C. W Report

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

b. ENGL 2301/W World Literature in English [#171] (Title revision) – [CAR has been REVISED as requested] – Recommended Approval

c. ENGL/AFRA 3217/W Studies in African American Literature and Culture [#200] (New course requesting W)

d. KINS 3530W Mechanism and Adaptations in Sport and Exercise [#350] (Revise title and description) – Recommended Approval

- S. Zinn gave a brief overview of the report. There were two items put up for approval, ENGL 2301/W and HEJS/CLCS 2301.

**B. Goffinet motioned to accept the report. The motion to approve the W report passed unanimously. (Revise ENGL 2301/W and KINS 3530W).**

**6. Old Business**

A. SOCI 3651/W Sociology of the Family (Revised – level change)

- See W Report. This item was not received in time for W review.

- B. SOCI 3841/W Public Opinion and Mass Communication (Revised – level change)
  - See W Report. This item was not received in time for W review.
- C. Revision of By-laws related to General Education
  - This item will be held until after the CAR reviews as it is not as time-sensitive.

## 7. New Curricular Action Requests

- A. ARE 3235 [#514] Marine Economics and Policy (Add CA2; level and description change)
  - B. Goffinet expressed some concern about courses that go from 3000- to 2000-level. He noted that the justification for this course seems to relate to enrollment, and he wondered if this was an adequate reason for the change.
  - E. Schultz suggested that this might be a question that can be conveyed to the Senate C&C or the department. The GEOC's purview is more about the Gen Ed content.
  - D. Gross suggested that when UConn went over to the 4-digit numbering system, some departments did not fully consider what level would be most appropriate for certain courses and these level changes are the result of departmental re-evaluation.
  - B. Goffinet noted that his concern is largely due to current issues in his own department where students are able to graduate without ever taking an upper-level course.
  - M. Morrell noted that for many of the social sciences, there is little difference between 2000- and 3000-level courses other than whether or not sophomores need permission to take them. It was also noted that the university considers 2000-level courses to be upper level.
  - There was discussion of the blurred lines between disciplinary content and Gen Ed content. At least two members reiterated concerns about the justification for the level change of this course, especially in conjunction with the addition of CA2. E. Schultz and other members argued that they did not feel this was GEOC's purview, but suggested that concerns could be passed on to the Senate C&C.

**This course was referred out to subcommittee, with the understanding that GEOC will convey to the Senate C&C their concerns about the level change if it is approved. (CA2)**

- B. ECON 3438W [#584] Contemporary Problems in Economics (Revise prereqs)
  - There was no extended discussion.

**This course was referred out to subcommittee. (W)**

- C. ECON 4494W [#582] Seminar in Economics (Revise prereqs)
  - There was no extended discussion.

**This course was referred out to subcommittee. (W)**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Piantek  
GEOC Program Assistant