

# GEOC Meeting August 30, 2017

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

**Eric Schultz – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Joseph Abramo, Lisa Blansett, Michael Bradford, Baki Cetegen, James Cole, Michael Darre (Ex-Officio), Ana Maria Diaz-Marcos, Arthur Engler, Beth Ginsberg, Bernard Goffinet, David Gross, Alvaro Lozano-Robledo, Thomas Meyer, Michael Morrell, Gustavo Nanclares, Anji Seth, Kathleen Tonyr (Ex-Officio), Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Manuela Wagner,**

**Regrets:** Alvaro Lozano-Robledo, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi

Meeting was called to order at 9:31am.

**1. Welcome**

**2. Minutes of April 26, 2017 meeting were e-approved**

**3. Next Meeting: September 11, 2017**

**4. Chair's Report**

A. Association of American Colleges and Universities Summer Institute on General Education and Assessment (see 'Action plan for changes to General Education at the University of Connecticut 2017)

- E. Schultz updated the committee on the UConn delegation's experience at the summer institute and introduced the document they produced.
- E. Schultz acknowledged that the plan is ambitious, so we are exploring what can be done and what resources are available. He noted that the Senate Executive Committee will review and discuss the plan shortly.
- E. Schultz noted that the big take-away from the institute is that Gen Ed of UConn is badly out of date. It is a credit distribution model, and many institutions have moved to an integrative "strands" model. He explained the strands model and noted that Diversity and Multiculturalism, Environment and Sustainability, and Ethics and Civility would be three possible strands for UConn.
- Another possible action would be to separate out Arts from Arts and Humanities. There is both enthusiasm and skepticism about this. The restructuring necessary in Fine Arts might not be implementable.
- M. Morrell asked how this might affect the number of courses a student would need to take, and E. Schultz explained several possibilities.
- B. Ginsberg reminded the committee to consider whether new requirements for Gen Ed could be implemented at the Regional campuses. Some plans could seriously tax campus resources. E. Schultz suggested that distance learning might help here, but he also assured everyone that there would be Regional Campus representation during planning. B. Ginsberg indicated that she would be happy to help out.
- G. Nanclares asked when the first set of goals might be proposed formally to the University. E. Schultz said he would like to see a proposal by the Spring on how the strands model might look.

- M. Morrell expressed concerns about a partial roll-out, such as confining the proposal to two strands. He suggested that if we go in, we should go all-in so that some people/departments don't feel as though they are being left out.
  - M. Bradford asked how E. Schultz hoped the students would view this change. E. Schultz noted that he has not talked to students about this yet, but he is hoping they will view it positively, particularly if it affords them more flexibility and intentionality in choosing courses.
- B. Communications (see 'advising retreat presentation', 'GenEduc poster copy')
- E. Schultz gave a brief overview of his use of the poster and PowerPoint thus far. He indicated that he will be at upcoming open houses.
  - Note added after meeting: here are links to all four videorecordings produced last year of interviews with Gen Ed instructors and their class sessions.  
Amit Savkar, Q: <https://youtu.be/DUvuv6KRINs>  
Robert Thorson, CA-3: <https://youtu.be/AsHv4WwXE-M>  
Tom Long, CA-4 and W: <https://youtu.be/JsBYwTia9fl>  
John Bell, CA-1: <https://youtu.be/gk1sicDW2ss>  
Mary Ellen Junda, CA-1: [https://youtu.be/RLS\\_uhQiERc](https://youtu.be/RLS_uhQiERc)

## 5. Subcommittee Reports

- A. None

## 6. Old Business (likely to be taken up after New Course Action Requests)

- A. Revision of By-laws related to General Education (see 'Senate By-Laws, II.C.2\_revised\_3\_28\_17\_revisions accepted')
- Deferred to next meeting.
- B. Modifications to Policy on Academic Adjustment (see 'AA policy updates for SSC with updates\_es3\_all changes accepted\_2')
- E. Schultz refreshed everyone's minds about the presentation by Katrina Higgins last year. He also noted places where he made modifications for the sake of concision on the document provided.
  - D. Gross noted that documentation is not always possible for students with financial constraints, so he suggested "and/or" in place of "and" in the first sentence under "Policy."
  - E. Schultz asked M. Morrell if he still had concerns about decisions allocated to the deans rather than the faculty. There was discussion of this issue. D. Gross noted that accommodations would never override major requirements, which satisfied M. Morrell.
  - J. Abramo asked who decides what constitutes "compelling evidence." D. Gross gave an explanation of the process.
  - E. Schultz proposed deferring further discussion to the next meeting, and the committee agreed.

## 7. New Course Action Requests

a. CHIN 3270 Chinese Film (CA1, CA4-Int) [Requesting intensive session offering]

- There was discussion about whether or not the course could be moved directly to the Senate C&C. The CA1 and CA4 co-chairs felt the course retained adequate Gen Ed content from what they could see.

**M. Morrell motioned to send the course to Senate C&C. M. Bradford second. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. EDLR 2001 Contemporary Social Issues in Sport, #3134 (CA4) [Adding CA4 designation to an existing course]

- E. Schultz suggested that the instructor should include Gen Ed language in the course outcomes. M. Bradford asked how this would be enacted and what if the proposer said no. E. Schultz clarified that some things we ask are required, like the W clause in a syllabus. Other things are not; this would be a best-practice suggestion but not required.

**Course was referred to CA4.**

c. ENGL 2605/W Capitalism, Literature, and Culture, #163 (CA1, W) [Adding new course]

- There was brief discussion of the course.

**Course was referred to CA1 and W.**

d. POLS 3012/W Modern Political Theory (W) [Revising course description]

- It was noted that ENGL 3800 should be removed from the pre-requisites. The course was originally approved by the college four years ago but got lost somewhere.

**G. Nanclares motioned to send the course on to the Senate C&C. M. Wagner Seconded. The motion was approved with one abstention.**

e. POLS 3613W Congressional Elections (W) [Adding W section of an existing course]

- No major discussion.

**Course was referred to W.**

f. SPAN 1030 Religion in Latin America: A Historical View (CA1, CA4-Int) Adding new Course]

- No major discussion.

**Course was referred to CA1, CA4.**

## **8. New Business**

A. Change to representation of GEOC: addition of ex officio representatives from First Year Writing

- E. Schultz gave some background on his idea to have First Year Writing (FYW) representatives included on GEOC as ex-officio members. FYW is not officially Gen Ed, but it has always been considered in conjunction with it because of its Information Literacy component and status as a pre-requisite for all W courses.
- In communications prior to this meeting, Hedley Freake suggested that the Senate C&C needs to approve this change now, and ultimately the Senate would review the change as part of the package of changes to Senate By-Laws, Rules and Regulations that we are preparing.

- M. Bradford did not object but asked someone to make the case for the addition of FYW reps. K. Tonry explained the relationship of FYW to Gen Ed. She noted that issues with FYW could especially affect student preparation for W courses.

**Motion to approve FYW representatives as ex-officio members of GEOC by D. Gross. A. Seth seconded.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Piantek  
GEOC Program Assistant