



## GEOC Meeting November 29, 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 Tonry (Ex-Officio), Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, **Manuela Wagner, Brenda Brueggemann**, Debs Ghosh

Regrets: David Gross, Debs Ghosh, Bernard Goffinet, James Cole, Michael Bradford

Meeting was called to order at 9:40am.

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Minutes of November 6, 2017. Meeting were accepted as submitted.

### 3. Next Meeting: December 11, 2017 at 1:30pm

### 4. Chair's Report

#### A. ΔGE Working Group (see 'DeltaGE membership')

- Robert Day is a new member of the group from the School of Business. Julia Yakovich has also been added from Public Engagement.
- E. Schultz offered to let GEOC members have access to the Google Drive where the committee documents are kept. He also noted that GEOC members could be added to the email distribution list.

#### B. Provost competition proposals and review panel (see 'Provost competition proposals and review')

- E. Schultz gave the committee an overview of the proposals received and noted that each one has at least one ad hoc reviewer.

### 5. Subcommittee Reports

#### A. No reports

### 6. Alignment Reports

#### A. No reports

### 7. Old Business

#### A. GEOC Review of Second Language Courses (likely nothing to report)

#### B. Q Assessment (likely nothing to report)

#### C. Environmental Literacy proposal and modifications (see 'motions regarding Environment gen ed')

- E. Schultz explained the document he sent to the committee that proposed several ways to incorporate the environmental literacy component. He noted the addition of an option #2 that was more recently proposed by M. Morrell. The document also includes an envisioning of the strands model (option #8), which was proposed by Pam Bedore and Katrina Higgins.

- E. Schultz suggested that GEOC should choose one of these options to put forward for eventual Senate consideration.

**M. Morrell motioned that it is the sense of this committee that the proposal by Jack Clausen’s group is not workable given current teaching capacity in environmental courses that are also Content Area courses, and that option #2 from the proposal document is the best option for implementing an environmental literacy requirement in the General Education curriculum. A. Seth seconded.**

- A. Lozano-Robledo expressed concern about focusing on this literacy above others as well as making this a requirement given possible capacity concerns.
- M. Wagner expressed concern about trying to push this initiative through now that we are just starting to look at revising Gen Ed. She felt as though there was something off on the timing.
- T. Meyer asked about option #8 of the strands model. E. Schultz clarified how this would work, and he noted that this would just be optional for students and would result in a transcript notation. T. Meyer noted that he favored option #8.
- G. Nanclares did not feel that option #8 was feasible.
- M. Morrell indicated that he too favors option #8, but that option #8 would have to be part of the larger Gen Ed revision. With option #2 he was trying to address the original charge in the simplest and most immediate way possible at this time.
- There was discussion of an amendment to the motion that would expressed how GEOC does not feel as though it is appropriate to add the environmental literacy at this time. E. Schultz noted that rejecting the motion would do this in practice, but some members felt that GEOC’s reservations needed to be spelled out more explicitly.
- B. Brueggemann said that she has worked on these committees before at other universities, and she too questioned why UConn would choose to give this literacy special consideration over others.
- A. Lozano-Robledo reminded the committee that there is concern over the identified environmental courses being predatory on other courses. E. Schultz noted that curriculum changes in general often change the enrollment landscape.

**T. Meyer motioned to table the proposal until the next meeting. G. Nanclares seconded. Motion approved with one abstention.**

### **8. Course Action Requests**

- A. PNB 3264W Molecular Principles of Physiology, #3681 (W) [Revise Pre-reqs]

*Note: This course was placed on hold pending contact with the proposer about the need for a W statement/F clause in the syllabus.*

- E. Schultz noted that he has spoken with the department and nothing new has been received to date.

- B. AMST/AASI 3201 Introduction to Asian American Studies (CA1, CA4) [Create an AMST cross-listing]

- No discussion.

**M. Morrell motioned to send the course to the Senate C&C. M. Wagner seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

C. AMST/HIST 3502/W Colonial America: Native Americans, Slaves, and Settlers, 1492-1760 (W) [Create an AMST cross-listing]

- E. Schultz noted that the number of pages for papers are not listed, and there is no mentioned of revision.
- B. Ginsberg expressed concern about the course.

**The course was referred to the W subcommittee.**

D. ECON 2500W Writing in Economics (W) [Intensive session offering]

- E. Schultz noted that this request is being made with a specific student in mind in order to fulfill a graduation requirement.
- M. Morrell and A. Seth pointed out that there is a peer review process included in the revised syllabus, but it is a class of one person.
- There was discussion of the assigned pages and whether the full 15 pages would be revised or whether only a portion of the essay would be revised. There was also discussion of whether or not there was enough time for the student to revise two drafts in the condensed format of the course.
- A. Seth asked if this would set a precedent. No, E. Schultz and K. McDermott noted that there are currently two W courses approved for intensive session: a 3-credit course in PP, and a 1-credit course in ARE with an enrollment cap of 9.
- L. Blansett felt that the actual purpose of the course was unclear.
- M. Morrell asked if there was an option to approve the course for one offering. Yes, K. McDermott noted that GEOC has done provisional approvals before, so the committee can approve this course for one offering and then require a report from the department before approving the course for further offerings.
- B. Ginsberg said that she knows the professor proposing the course, and she offered to have a conversation with him to address some of the concerns. E. Schultz indicated that he would also contact the instructor.
- M. Morrell summarized that there are three main concerns: 1) the peer review mentioned in the syllabus, 2) the number of revised pages, and 3) whether there is enough time to complete the draft/revision process.

**The committee deferred consideration of the course until the next meeting pending consultation with the proposer.**

E. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography (CA3) [Revise credit applications]

- M. Wagner noted a typo on the word “sporadic” in the syllabus.

**M. Morrell motioned to send the course to Senate C&C. T. Meyer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

F. MARN 1004 Oceanography Laboratory (CA3-Lab) [Revise credit applications]

- No discussion.

**T. Meyer motioned to send the course to Senate C&C. G. Nanclares seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

G. MAST/MARN 1001 The Sea Around Us (CA3) [Create a MAST cross-listing]

- No discussion.

**G. Nanclares motioned to send the course to Senate C&C. A. Engler seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## **9. New Business**

A. Information Literacy Subcommittee Report?

- *This item was not discussed due to time constraints.*

B. GEOC Budget Report (see 'GEOC Budget Report\_FY 2018')

- *This item was not discussed due to time constraints.*

## **10. Coming Up this Year**

A. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed

B. Presentations from First-Year Writing & Honors (Spring)

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Piantek McDermott  
GEOC Program Assistant