



GEOC Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2018 – 9:30am-11:00am in Rowe 420

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

Eric Schultz – Chair, (Karen McDermott – Admin), Joseph Abramo, Pamela Bedore (Ex-Officio), **Lisa Blansett**, Michael Bradford, Brenda Brueggemann, Kun Chen, **James Cole**, Debs Ghosh, **Beth Ginsberg, Bernard Goffinet**, Miguel Gomes, Mary Ellen Junda, **Alvaro Lozano-Robledo**, Richard Mancini, Michael Morrell, **Kathleen Tonry, Jason Vokoun**, Manuela Wagner, Chunsheng Yang

Meeting was called to order at 9:34am.

1. Welcome and Regrets

A. Regrets: P. Bedore, M. Gomes, R. Mancini (semester); B. Brueggemann, M. Wagner

2. Past and Future

A. Minutes of October 31, 2018 meeting ('Minutes_10-31-18.docx')

The minutes were approved as submitted.

B. Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 28, 1:30pm-3:00pm

3. Chair's Report

A. ΔGE Working Group – Joint GEOC/DeltaGE Meeting

a. Update from Tuesday, Nov. 6

- The group had a “spirited discussion” of the newly proposed Gen Ed structures.

b. Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 27 – 12:00pm-1:30pm

- A Gen Ed Option Four structure was created after discussion from the last meeting.
- E. Schultz will ask John Volin for time to speak to the department heads about the Gen Ed revision.

B. Subcommittee Management

- K. McDermott provided some brief clarifications on subcommittee management, especially for new Co-Chairs. In particular she noted that subcommittee members are not on the GEOC email distribution lists, so they do not receive the meeting packets that are sent out.
- K. McDermott also noted that she tries to send subcommittee Co-Chairs an email with all of their courses listed and the CARs attached so that Co-Chairs can more easily keep track of their dockets and send packets out to their members. Some members felt this was not necessary, but K. McDermott will continue to send emails to Co-Chairs just to be sure that they have everything they need, especially if they were not able to attend meetings where courses were referred to them.

- One member asked if other Co-Chairs had any good strategies or apps for helping to manage subcommittee business. Members suggested apps like “Slack” or “Asana,” but reported varying levels of actual success implementing the use of these apps in their subcommittees.
- C. Provost’s Competition Announcement (11 Proposals received)
- We currently have reviewers from CA4 and W. We need reviewers with CA1, CA2, E, and Q expertise.
 - The request was met with some light-hearted sarcasm, given the timeframe that the review committee will meet.
- D. General Education Course Student Essay Contest – Deadline Nov. 16
- We currently have more than 35 entries and will probably end up with about 50.
 - K. McDermott surveyed the current entries and found that about half have been submitted by students currently in the Gen Ed class that they are recommending. This is probably related to our request that Gen Ed instructors announce the contest to their classes.
 - Some students are recommending Gen Ed courses related to their majors, and a few students did submit essays that are not eligible because they are not about Gen Ed courses.
 - We did accept several essays about ENGL 1010, which fulfills the Gen Ed Information Literacy requirement.

4. Subcommittee Reports

- A. CA3 Report
- a. EEB 2208 Introduction to Conservation Biology [CA3, EL] (#8517) [Add CA3 and EL]
 - b. SPSS 1060 The Great American Lawn: History, Culture and Sustainability [CA2, CA3] (#6267) [New]
 - A report was received, but it will be held until the next meeting.
- B. Q Report
- a. Q assessment
 - Eric Loken in Neag has made contact with departments and has developed a plan for interview assessment.
 - E. Schultz noted that he received information about a possible previous Q Assessment. K. McDermott will dive into old files to see what she can find.
- C. W Report
- a. BME 3600W Biomechanics [W] (#7491) [Revise Prereq]
 - b. MCB 3843W Research Literature in Comparative Genomics [W] (#7030) [New]
 - c. SOWK 4100W Senior Seminar in Social Work [W] (New)
- D. E Report
- a. EEB 2208 Introduction to Conservation Biology [CA3, EL] (#8517) [Add CA3 and EL]

5. Old Business

A. Learning Outcomes for Second Language General Education courses

- There are no updates at this time.

B. Possible requirement that at least one W course should be in the English language

- The W subcommittee is working on this.

C. Possible change of W requirement on paper length, from page length to word number

- The W subcommittee is working on this.

6. Course Action Requests

A. DRAM 2134 Honors Core: Analyzing Sport as Performance [CA1] [Intensive session request]

- Speaking as CA1 Co-Chair, M. Bradford felt the course adequately covered CA1, although he had some general concerns about the modality of offering the course in the compressed format.
- Given that the other CA1 co-chair was not present to weigh in, the committee referred to the course to CA1 for further consideration.

This course was referred to CA1.

B. ECON 2120 Honors Core: Rights and Harms (#8657) [New CA1]

- One member thought ARE 1150 might also be acceptable as a pre-req for the course and wondered if we could ask that the proposer to consider this moving forward.
- Some members felt the CA1 content seemed scant, but the course was referred to CA1 for further review.

This course was referred to CA1.

C. ECON 2311 Econometrics I (#8745) [Revise title and catalog copy and adding Q]

- There was discussion of whether or not the course looked like a completely different course, which would warrant giving it a new course number. It was suggested that - like many courses – this one had simply morphed over the years and the department is just engaging in cleanup. To analogize it to evolutionary biology, one member asked if the course is a new species, regardless of whether the change happened gradually or at once. If so, do we want to require it to be categorized as such?

- One member asked if it was too specific to emphasize the use of “ordinary least squares regression” in the catalog description. Others felt that this was to distinguish the functions used in this course from the more advanced ones used in the next level of the course.
- Some members felt that the syllabi for this course and the next one both have multiple issues.

This course was referred to Q.

D. ECON 2312 Econometrics II (#8746) [Revise title and catalog copy and adding Q]

- One member asked if this course really needs to be Q. From a practical standpoint, students need two Q courses, one of which needs to be in MATH or STAT, so they cannot use this course to fulfill the Q requirement, since by necessity they would have already had to take ECON 2311Q to get into it.
- It was noted that it might be applicable for a student to get Q credit for this course is if the student is transferring in and needed to take it. On the other hand, members argued that transfers students would still likely be getting Q credit for the pre-req (ECON 2311Q) through transfer credit.
- One member asked if there was perhaps some value to students to showing on their transcripts just how quantitative their plan of study was by demonstrating how many Q courses they have taken. Other members felt that the Q was largely an internal designation and would not mean much outside of UConn.

This course was referred to Q.

E. ECON 2447(W) Economics of Sports (#8112) [Adding W version]

- The course is currently offered in a four-week summer session. We need clarification about when it will be offered since it is requesting that a W section be added, and GEOC does not typically approve W courses for intensive session offering.
- It was clarified that intensive sessions are “Four weeks or less”, not “Less than four weeks.” There is a place on the website that this needs to be changed.
- There was some confusion about language in the syllabus related to the grading of drafts and whether students could resubmit the draft for a better grade. The subcommittee will ask the proposer for clarification.

This course was referred to W.

F. EEB 2100E Global Change Ecology (#8196) [New CA3-Lab and E]

- No comments. The course was referred to the relevant subcommittees.

This course was referred to CA3 and E.

G. EEB 3205 Current Issues in Environmental Science (#8679) [Revise recommended prep; adding CA3 & E]

- There were no comments and the course was referred to the relevant subcommittee.

This course was referred to CA3 and E.

H. ENGL/AMST 2200 Literature and Culture of North America before 1800 (#7692) [New CA1]

- It was questioned if the course was sufficiently Gen Ed based on the limited information provided in the CAR. One member felt that the CA1 area was detailed enough to warrant consideration, even if the more general Gen Ed section was lacking.

This course was referred to CA1.

I. HIST 3412/W Intellectual and Social History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century [CA1] (#8799)
[Level, title, and description change, add W section]

- There appear to be some issues with the W criteria. The committee asked the W subcommittee to engage with the proposers.

This course was referred to CA1 and W.

J. HIST 3413W Intellectual and Social history of Europe in the Twentieth Century [CA1, W] (#8800)
[Level, title, and description change]

- Language needs to be added to the course description for credit restrictions regarding the 3000-level version.

This course was referred to CA1 and W.

K. HIST 3540/W American Environmental History [CA1, CA4, E, W] (#4999) [Multiple revisions and additions]

- It was noted that NRE has a similar course and was not consulted about possible overlap.
- This is essentially a variable topics course. There was discussion about whether each version meets the requirements for each Gen Ed area. In particular, members wondered how the course functioned with regard to the multiple regions covered by different sections.
- It was suggested that the course needs to be offered as three different courses. On the other hand, the course seems to be a seminar, and there is an understanding for seminars that there will be variability among iterations.
- Variable topics courses are abundant in UConn's curriculum, but there was some question as to how many are Gen Ed. There were none that members could readily think of.
- One member felt that the course was probably overreaching in its attempts to cover four Gen Ed areas.
- There was extensive discussion about whether the committee needed to see three syllabi and what those syllabi needed to include. Ultimately members felt that the course needed to have the same learning objectives across iterations with only variations on course readings and region-specific discussions.
- The committee wanted to see syllabi for the other two versions of the course, so E. Schultz will touch base with the proposer.

This proposal was put on hold pending consultation by E. Schultz with the proposer.

- L. HIST/AMST 2210 History of Ocean (#8660) [Adding E]
- M. JOUR 1002 The Press in America (#8436) [Adding CA1]
- N. JOUR 2010 Journalism in the Movies (#8159) [Adding CA1]
- O. MARN 3003Q Environmental Reaction and Transport [Q] (#8639) [Revise prereqs]
- P. MATH 3710/W Mathematical Modeling (#8537) [Adding W version; revise catalog copy]
- Q. POLS 3019/W Black Political Thought (#8747) [Adding W]
- R. POLS 3434/W Excavating the International in Everyday Practices (#8597) [New W]
- S. SOCI 2310 Introduction to Criminal Justice (#8939) [Adding CA2 & CA4]

7. New Business

- A. TBD

8. Coming Up

- A. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed
- B. Presentation from First-Year Writing

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,
Karen C. P. McDermott
GEOC Program Assistant