



GEOC Meeting February 21, 2018

Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:

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

Regrets: Brenda Brueggemann, Kathleen Tonry, Beth Ginsberg

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 am.

1. Preliminaries

A. Call-ins: Dial 1-866-857-0502, passcode 2023183#

2. Welcome and Regrets

3. Past and Future

a. Minutes of February 5, 2018 meeting (Minutes_2-5-18_draft.docx)

Accepted as submitted.

b. Next Meeting: March 5, 2018 at 1:00pm in Dodd Conference Room 162

- K. McDermott also noted that GEOC members have been notified if their terms were up and if they were eligible to recommit for a second term. E. Schultz discovered last year that GEOC members could only serve two consecutive terms before they needed to step down for a break. Members' terms will be posted on the GEOC website so that members are aware of when it is time for them to rotate off.

4. Honors Presentation – Guest: *Jaclyn Chancey*

- Jaclyn Chancey presented to the committee on a variety of Honors-related topics, including the Honors MOU, Honors Core courses, and the new Honors Program requirements.
- The MOU treats Honors as a pre-reqs, and this is handled by a reserve cap in the system.
- Honors Core courses are differentiated at the catalog level with “Honors” somewhere in either the title or description.
- Honors is not necessarily advised about whether a department is offering Honors courses, and Honors is not currently in the course workflow system. Honors only has authority over whether a course counts for the Honors Core requirement. They usually have about 10 different topics and look to provide about 250 seats a semester.
- It was suggested that we should look into adding Honors to the online Car workflow system.
- Enrollment in an Honors Core course by non-Honors students is entirely at the discretion of the instructor. This was a major point of discussion when the MOU was first drafted.
- The new Honors requirements were built around principles such as the Three Ring Conception of Giftedness, the Enrichment Triad Model, and Operation Houndstooth. The goal is to get students to move beyond the classroom.

- Honors is moving from a 2-by-2 model where each set of requirements is independent, to an overlapping model, either branch of which can be done over the course of a student's full four years.
- The number of Honors courses taken per academic year and the GPA requirement have not changed.
- The credit distribution system to achieve the Honors Laureate distinction was explained. In short, courses that already have a Gen Ed designation will fit in the related Honors category, otherwise they will fit into category by subject area. For a small number of subject areas with a wide array of courses, e.g. LING, departments will have to specify which courses they want to fulfill which category.
- Will EL be involved in this model? It will depend on how the new requirement shapes up. Honors is going to wait and watch and decide how that requirement will fit into the distribution.
- For the most part, current students will not be able to opt for these requirements. Honors is tying requirements to a student's entry point to UConn rather than catalog year, but there will be some flexibility for students with special circumstances.
- The Honors Program does not anticipate any effects on the number of Honors students they take in, but this plan allows for growth. It also alleviates the potential bottleneck of ENGL 2011, which had previously been the only required course for all students.
- Will this change how we identify Honors students? No. Admissions does a holistic review, and all students applying to UConn are considered for Honors. Rising sophomores and rising juniors can also apply once they are here as long as they have the minimum GPA of 3.4.
- We now need to ensure that regional campuses have access to Core courses.
- There is a grant competition to develop Honors Core courses. The deadline to apply is March 18. Please share with your colleagues: <https://honors.uconn.edu/2018/02/16/core-dev-grant/>

5. Chair's Report

A. ΔGE Working Group

- The motion to add Environmental Literacy (EL) passed by a sizeable majority.

B. Provost's Competition Reception – Tonight (Wednesday) at 5:15pm in Rowe 420

- The reception is tonight. Please come. We are offering shrimp and John Volin.

C. AAC&U Conference in Philadelphia

- E. Schultz, Pam Bedore, Katrina Higgins, and Julia Yakovich attended. Materials are available if desired.

D. Other Announcements

- There was discussion previously about students enrolling in W courses without meeting the pre-reqs. E. Schultz looked into whether there was a solution in PeopleSoft. We would have to override the instructor's permission to waive a pre-req. If this is an issue we would like to pursue, we can try to seek an alternative way to have the waiver represented. L. Blanchett volunteered to work on this.

6. Subcommittee Reports

A. W Report

- a. AMST/ENGL 3265W Seminar in American Studies, #3843 (W) [Revise title and description
 - b. HIST/AFRA/LLAS 3619/W History of the Caribbean, #4958 (CA1, CA4-Int, W) [New cross-listed course]
- No discussion.

Action: Report was accepted as submitted.

7. Alignment Reports

A. W Alignment Report

- a. ANSC 3312W, HMCI - Aligned
- b. HDFS 2004W, JOUR 2000W, SPAN 3240W – Not aligned
 - There was discussion of why the number of course objectives for different sections of the same course were flagged for HDFS 2004W. This is a continuing discussion on uniformity within different sections of the same course.
 - There is a consistent pattern of W courses not aligning. The solution is not to change our requirements but to communicate more with departments.
 - There was a suggestion to handle this via check boxes in the CAR form when faculty submit W courses, but this does already happen in a way, and instructors just check off the boxes, even if the courses do not meet the requirement.
 - We need to come up with a system for enforcing Gen Ed criteria or conducting the alignment is moot. We need to come up with a concrete plan about what kind of authority we're asking for.
 - There was a suggestion that Gen Ed syllabi should be required to contain special content.
 - Every department has a curriculum committee. It was suggested that maybe the curriculum committee needs to be more involved with reviewing courses for alignment. It was suggested that we send courses through department C&Cs before they get to GEOC for alignment.
 - There was discussion on whether we should request that unaligned courses send us their syllabi before being taught the next semester.
 - K. McDermott and E. Schultz will get together to discuss options.

Action: The report was accepted a submitted.

8. Old Business

- A. Information Literacy Updates (no updates)
- B. GEOC Review of Second Language Courses (no updates)
- C. Q Assessment (no updates)
 - OIRE is eager to help, but there are long delays in getting info. We will move forward with what we've got.

[Remaining business DEFERED until the next meeting]

9. 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.

- B. HDFS 3141 Developmental Approaches to Intergroup Relations and Victimization (CA2, CA4) [Add CA2 and CA4]
- C. MARN 3801W Marine Sciences and Society, #4720 (W) [Level change to 2801W]
- D. NURS 2XXXW Fostering a Culture of Health through Health Equity and Interprofessional Collaboration (CA4-INT, W) [Add new course]
- E. WGSS 2255/W Sexualities Activism and Globalization (CA4-INT, W) [Revise title]
- F. ARAB 3771 Cinema in the Middle East and North Africa, #6046 (CA1-A, CA4-INT) [New course]
- G. ARAB 2751 Arabic Folk Tales and Mirrors for Princes, #6066 (CA1-E, CA4-INT) [Add new]
- H. ARAB 3751 Al-Andalus: Music, Poetry and science in Muslim Spain, #6067 (CA1-C, CA4-INT) [Add new]
- I. ARAB 3550W Classical Arab Literature, #6087 (CA1-B, W) [Add new]

10. New Business

- A. Gen Ed courses that haven't been taught in five years (MIA gen ed courses.pdf)

11. Coming Up this Year

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Karen C. P. McDermott
GEOC Program Assistant