



GEOC Meeting February 5, 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: Lisa Blansett

Meeting was called to order at 1:02pm.

1. Preliminaries

A. Call-ins: Dial 1-888-391-6809, passcode 31511

2. Welcome and Regrets

3. Past and Future

a. Minutes of January 24, 2018 meeting (Minutes_1-24-18_draft.docx)

- K. McDermott noted that she made a correction to the start time.

b. Next Meeting: February 21, 2018 at 10:00am

i. Karen's note about meeting location for 3/5 and 4/2

- GEOC will meet in the Dodd Conference room 162 for these meetings.

4. Chair's Report

A. ΔGE Working Group

- E. Schultz reported that the working group discussed the divisions between discipline areas, especially the humanities versus fine arts. One ΔGE member has suggested "blowing the whole thing up," meaning that the committee should start over from scratch and reconsider all the content areas.
- The Senate will be voting on an Environmental Literacy (EL) motion today. E. Schultz thought he would be making a presentation about the survey he took, but the Senate Executive Committee thought it was too complicated. The Senate EL motion will likely pass after much discussion.

B. Provost's Competition Reception

- The reception will be February 21 at 5:00pm, hopefully in Rowe 420.

C. AAC&U One-Day Institute on Signature Work

- This is a one-day event in Boston. Susanna Cowan and Katrina Higgins are going.

D. AAC&U Conference in Philadelphia

- Four people will be attending the conference: E. Schultz, Pam Bedore, Katrina Higgins, and Julia Yakovich.

5. Subcommittee Reports

A. CA2 Report

- a. POLS 3610/W American Politics in Film, #4476 (CA2, W) [New course]

- No discussion.

The report was approved unanimously as submitted.

B. CA3 Report (CA3 Report_2-5-18.docx)

- a. EEB 2222 Plants in a Changing World, #4856 (CA3) [New course]
- b. MCB 2612 Honors Core: Microbe Hunters-Crowdsourcing Antibiotic Discovery, #3284 (New CA3-Lab)

- One member noted that MCB 2612 looks like an expensive course. Are there labs fees? No, the course has alternative funding.

The report was approved unanimously as submitted.

C. W Report

- a. HIST/AFRA/LLAS 3619/W History of the Caribbean, #4958 (CA1, CA4-Int, W) [New cross-listed course]

- The report was deferred to the next meeting to give members time to review it.

6. Alignment Reports

A. CA2 Alignment Report

- There was some question about the consistency between offerings of the HDFS 1070 course, especially among ECE sections. It was suggested that the instructors who fill out these forms are sometimes not giving us the kinds of full answers that we are expecting.
- In particular, there were also concerns about whether CA2 objectives can adequately be assessed by multiple choice tests. One member suggested that this was an issue for all large-lecture classes where workload is an issue. There was some debate about the amount of uniformity that can occur in grading short answer or essay question exams, especially for large classes.
- One member felt that Gen Ed courses in general cannot be assessed consistently when some are very large lectures and others are smaller sections. It is difficult to have a uniformity of expectations, not just between courses, but across all Gen Ed.
- It was noted that the alignment forms still ask about the Torrington campus.
- There was discussion about how the format of the form may be leading proposers to give either incomplete or misleading information.
- M. Morrell said he is happy to take this course back to the CA2 subcommittee if GEOC feels as though there are issues that need to be addressed. GEOC member ultimately felt that this was not necessary.

- One member asked what recourse we have for courses that do not align. In short, none at this time. There is a case of when a course did not align and the instructor refused to change it.
- K. McDermott noted that if co-chairs were interested in revising the forms in a way that was more effective for their review, they should contact her to suggest edits or submit revisions.

The report was approved unanimously as submitted.

7. Old Business

A. GEOC Budget Report ('GEOC Budget Report_FY 2018')

- This is the first ever report to the GEOC on their own budget. E. Schultz gave a summary.
- There was a question about why departments are paid to complete the alignment. Several committee members felt that compensation was not necessary. E. Schultz will consult the Provost's Office on whether this practice should continue.
- If we do not spend money that is earmarked for something specific, can we reallocate? Yes. Assessment fund from last year were reallocated to send a seven-person team to the AAC&U Gen Ed Summer Institute.
- There was discussion of the assessment proposed for First Year Writing courses for non-native speakers, ENGL 1003 and ENGL 1004. These courses has grown more than 800%, and it has been a while since we have done an assessment on them. GEOC has offered \$40,000 to FYW for this assessment based a proposal they submitted.
- What is done with these assessments? All assessments done to date are posted on GEOC's website.
- Assessments can be used to gather evidence for requested improvements. It was noted, for example, that UConn does not currently have a faculty member who specializes in English for non-native speakers. Students are taking 7 credits that do not count toward their degrees even before they take ENGL 1010/1011. We need to be sure that these courses are doing what they are designed to do.
- Who would we send the assessment to? It is uncertain, but it would not stay in-house. UConn has more than 500 undergraduate students coming in internationally.
- If the results show inadequacies in the courses, are we concerned that this will reflect poorly on us and result in consequences? This was acknowledged as a valid point, but the primary concern is to identify areas of need or improvement. Typically, you cannot ask for resources unless you can provide evidence there is need.
- One member expressed frustration that some departments are hurting financially and then other areas – like GEOC – have these kinds of slush funds. He wanted it on the record that we need to think carefully about how we spend our funds in this budget climate.
- It was noted that much of the assessment funds for the FYW project will be going to graduate students to implement the work.
- One member noted that assessments like these will ultimately help undergraduate students.
- Several members of the committee expressed gratitude that this report on GEOC's budget was being shared with members.

- B. Information Literacy Updates (no updates)
- C. GEOC Review of Second Language Courses (no updates)
- D. Q Assessment (no updates)

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.

- B. AMST/ENGL 3265W Seminar in American Studies, #3843 (W) [revise title and description]
 - No discussion.

Action: The courses was refer to the W subcommittee.

- C. AMST/MUSI 1002 Sing and Shout! The History of America in Song (CA1, CA4) [Cross-list AMST with existing MUSI]
 - No discussion.

Action: M. Morrell motioned to forward the course to the Senate C&C. A. Seth seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. CAMS/HEJS/HIST 3256W Palestine Under the Greeks and Romans (W) [Delete]
 - One member asked if there was a reason we needed to see course deletion requests. Primarily it is to ensure that the course being deleted does not leave a hole in the curriculum that significantly affects other departments. There has been a case of this happening in the past, although little could be done about it.

Action: M. Morrell motioned to forward the course to the Senate C&C. G. Nanclares seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- E. EPSY 2100 Introduction to Exceptionality (CA2) [Level change to 1100, add CA2]

Technical Note: This course was changed from 3000-level to 2000-level in April 2017. It is still listed as EPSY 3100 in the catalog because it missed the catalog change deadline.)

 - It was suggested that the proposer was misunderstanding the nature and purpose of Gen Ed. Members discussed if we should refer the course to subcommittee or send it back to the proposer. It was decided that the course will be returned to the proposer for a more thorough consideration of why it should be Gen Ed.
 - There was also concern about the jump from 3000-level to 1000-level, especially regarding the course aims.

Action: E. Schultz will return the course to proposer with a request for more information.

- F. EPSY 2450 Whole Child, School, and Community: Linking Health and Education (CA2) [Add CA2]
 - The committee felt that there were similar issues with this course as well.

Action: E. Schultz will return the course to proposer with a request for more information.

- G. HDFS 3141 Developmental Approaches to Intergroup Relations and Victimization (CA2, CA4) [Add CA2 and CA4]
- H. MARN 3801W Marine Sciences and Society, #4720 (W) [Level change to 2801W]
- I. NURS 2XXXW Fostering a Culture of Health through Health Equity and Interprofessional Collaboration (CA4-INT, W) [Add new course]
- J. WGSS 2255/W Sexualities Activism and Globalization (CA4-INT, W) [Revise title]

9. New Business

- A. None

10. Coming Up this Year

- A. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed
- B. Presentations from First-Year Writing & Honors (Spring)
 - a. Honors Presentation – 2/21/18

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen C. P. McDermott
GEOC Program Assistant