



## GEOC Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2018 – 10:00am-11:30am in Dodd Conference 162

*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: Ana Maria Diaz-Marcos, Michael Morrell

Meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

### 1. Preliminaries

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

### 2. Welcome and Regrets

### 3. Past and Future

- a. Minutes of April 2, 2018 meeting (Minutes\_4-2-18.docx)
- No changes.

**The minutes were approved as submitted.**

- b. Next Meeting: April 30, 2018 at 1:00pm in Rowe 420 – Lunch will be served
- c. Fall meetings have been scheduled:
- Wed. Sept. 5 – 1:30pm-3:00pm
  - Thurs. Sept. 20 – 9:30am-11:00am
  - Wed. Oct. 3 – 1:30pm-3:00pm
  - Thurs. Oct. 18 – 9:30am-11:00am
  - Wed. Oct. 31 – 1:30pm-3:00pm
  - Thurs. Nov. 15 – 9:30am-11:00am
  - Wed. Nov. 28 – 1:30pm-3:00pm
  - Thurs. Dec. 13 – 9:30am-11:00am (exam week)

### 4. 2016-2017 Provost's Competition Reports

- a. Alaina Brenick reporting on HDFS 3141
- A. Brenick was introduced, and she explained how this grant allowed her and colleagues with different specializations to come together and revise a course so that it could be offered across campuses. The goal was to create a higher-level elective class that was not all lecture.
  - It was noted that GEOC has already approved this course for CA2 and CA4 and it is now in the Senate C&C's hands.
  - The group has been looking at textbooks and found one that they will review this summer. If the textbook does not work out, they will create a reader for the course.

- There is potential for there to be very diverse offerings of the course based on instructors' specializations. Is there a process for keeping the course offerings somewhat consistent? The group has committed to sharing their syllabi and communicating with each other through Google drives.
- GEOC praised the instructors for taking the lead on a group approach and asked what advice or best practices they have to offer for others. The main advice is to commit to communicating. The group used WebEx and Google Docs to ensure that they could meet regularly once they got out of the mentality that they had to be in the same place. Some group members had done trainings with CETL and shared some of the best-practices used through them as well.
- A. Brenick noted that this used to be "my" course; now it is "our" course. We tend to want to 'own' a course, but this has been an opportunity to both share knowledge and best practices while still being able to make the course their own.
- What was the communication with the home department at Storrs? HDFs has a new Department Head as of last year, so the relationship is changing. The Department Head was fully on board with developing courses that can be offered on multiple campuses. The campuses represented in this grant offer 4-year degrees in HDFs. Previously, regional faculty had to be more forward and present at Storrs in order to be engaged.
- All different students from different majors are taking this course, and they love it. The Honors version of the course helps prepare students for graduate work.

## 5. Chair's Report

### A. Please suggest revisions to the Alignment Forms

- K. McDermott will resend the forms with a firm deadline.

### B. ΔGE Working Group

- There will be a kick-off event in the Fall.
- George Kuh will be giving a key-note speech at the advising retreat on August 15 on high-impact practices.
- The group met with CLAS. A good portion of the committee wanted to change very little, or change it very slowly, but overall views ranged a gamut. Some wanted very specific learning goals and outcomes. Others wanted more flexibility.
- One GEOC member questioned what has actually happened at this point. It seems like this has come full circle. What has Delta GE done? They have developed some very specific ideas, but they have been clear about saying that these are not the only ideas that must be adopted. You have to bring people along when you make changes, or there will be resistance and rejection. Implementation in the next academic year will be a challenge but is possible.
- In the end, there will be changes. We will not do all this work to not make changes.
- There has been discussion of a more widely adopted capstone experience. Will there be a Gen Ed capstone and what would that look like? The challenge is to accommodate a wide variety of programmatic needs at a large university.
- The next steps are to develop processes for workshopping these ideas.
- There was a report from L. Blansett on how FYW fits into the Gen Ed curriculum.
- One member asked if the group is thinking about when students are taking their Gen Eds. The member taught a Gen Ed course and was surprised to see what kinds of students were enrolled, e. g. seniors from all different majors, etc. It was noted that some majors have to

front-load discipline-specific courses that are pre-reqs for later in-depth major works, so there are fewer opportunities for students in some majors to take their Gen Eds early.

C. Environmental Literacy Task Force ('Environmental literacy revisions to Senate Rules and Regs II.C.2 on Gen Ed.docx' and 'General Education Plans of Study.docx')

- The task force has decided on a definition of Environmental Literacy (EL). The letter "E" will be added to course numbers rather than adding a CA5 designation.
- This EL piece will be an amendment to the revisions to the General Education rules and regulations document.
- GEOC will not have a major discussion about this right now, but members were asked to review the documents for discussion and potential approval at the last meeting.
- Concern for how this will impact the regional campuses was again expressed. A capacity analysis was done earlier in the semester, but it was noted that this is no longer optional; the Senate has indicated that we need to add EL. That is understood, but there is still concern about implementation. It will be up to the Provost to make it happen at this point.
- Gen Ed is accommodating two double dips now rather than one. The EL course does not have to be one of the double dips. The EL course can also be stand-alone; it does not have to be another Content Area or Competency.
- A process will need to be undertaken in GEOC to get a rapid approval for EL courses once implementation has been decided.
- The capacity analysis only covers potential EL courses, and many are rarely offered, so other members expressed concern about the ability to offer enough courses. Courses that are designated EL will depend on the definition of EL that is adopted.

D. Annual Report ('GEOC Annual Report 2017-18.docx')

- E. Schultz explained the report process and gave the committee a hard deadline of April 20 to make notes, ask questions, or express concerns, at which time the report needs to be given to Cheryl Galli in the Senate Office.

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

A. CA3 Report (Pending updated syllabus)

- a. SPSS 1060 The Great American Lawn: History, Culture and Sustainability (#6267) [New]

B. W Report (Possible ETA of Monday?)

- a. ASLN 3306W Advanced American Sign Language, Level II (#6427) [New]

## 7. Alignment Reports

a. CA4 Alignment Addendum ('CA4 Alignment Report Addendum 2018.docx')

a. GERM 3261W

- No discussion.

**The report was approved as submitted.**

b. W Alignment Addendum ('W Alignment Report Addendum 2018.docx')

a. GERM 3261W

- The course was missing just about all of the W requirements.

- It was suggested that we should not pay people whose courses do not align. We pay departments to complete the alignment process, but there are no repercussions.
- The lack of repercussions has always been a problem, and the committee will not discuss it now, but we will discuss this again.

**The report was approved as submitted.**

## 8. Old Business

### A. Information Literacy Updates

- Stephen Slota (DMD/Neag) and Marcus Rossberg (PHIL) were added as subcommittee members.

### B. GEOC Review of Second Language Courses (See Course Action Requests below)

- The Senate C&C agreed that GEOC should review these courses, and the CAR workflow has already been revised to accommodate this.

### C. Q Assessment (no updates)

### D. Gen Ed courses that haven't been taught in five years (no updates)

## 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. MCB 1201 Virus Hunting: Applied Bioinformatics, #6767 (CA3-Lab) [New]

- Some changes were made to the course description to bring it more in alignment with standard formatting. E. Schultz will share these changes.
- The Gen Ed part in the CAR is more about assessment than Gen Ed.
- The committee can send it to CA3 or send it back and have the proposer flush out the Gen Ed justification. The committee felt it was better to send it to CA3 to be sure there were no other issues.

**This course was referred to the CA3 subcommittee.**

### C. MCB 3841W Research Literature in Molecular and Cell Biology, #6026 (W) [Revise Pre-reqs]

- The course seems to function as a Variable Topics course, thus the “pre-reqs vary by section.” This is unusual. Can and should this be done?
- The main question is if the variable pre-reqs affect the W-ness of the course.
- It was noted that this strategy is conducive to getting real faculty to teach W-in-the-major courses.
- There was discussion of whether the course should be sent directly to the Senate C&C. One member didn't think the W requirements were met.
- The W subcommittee would like to see the different syllabi iterations.

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

D. FREN 1161 Elementary French I, #6307 (SL) [Revise number]

- The Second Language subcommittee approved the course.

**This course was approved to be to the Senate C&C unanimously.**

E. FREN 1162 Elementary French II, #6308 (SL) [Revise number]

- The Second Language subcommittee approved the course.

**This course was approved to be to the Senate C&C unanimously.**

#### **10. New Business**

- a. GEOC Policy and Procedures Guide: discuss sections 'GEOC Policies' and 'Course Proposal Procedures' (see 'GEOC Policy Guide\_kp\_es4.docx')

#### **11. Coming Up**

- A. Provost Competition Winner Reports (April)
- B. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed
- C. Presentation from First-Year Writing (Spring)

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am

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