



## GEOC Meeting Minutes

September 20, 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 (Ex-Officio), Manuela Wagner, Chunsheng Yang**

Meeting was called to order at 1:30pm.

### 1. Preliminaries

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

### 2. Welcome and Regrets

a. Regrets: P. Bedore, M. Bradford, D. Ghosh, M. Gomes (semester?), R. Mancini (semester), C. Yang

### 3. Past and Future

a. Minutes of September 5, 2018 meeting (Minutes\_9-5-18.docx)

- The date was corrected and M. Wagner was added to the attendance.

**The minutes of September 5, 2018 were accepted with changes to the date and attendance.**

b. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 3, 1:30pm-3:00pm

### 4. Chair's Report

A. ΔGE Working Group

- The group will meet later today.

B. Environmental Literacy Task Force

- This group no longer meets, so this item will be struck from the agenda.

C. Departments up for Alignment: INDS, LLAS, ME, MEM<sup>1</sup>, MUSI, NRE, POLS, SOCI

- The committee was notified of the departments up for alignment this year.

D. Information Literacy need for chair

- A. Seth needs to step away from GEOC, so we need at least one, preferably two co-chairs for Information Literacy.

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<sup>1</sup> MEM has no eligible courses this round.

E. EL Definition

- The definition passed with virtually no discussion at the last Senate meeting.
- We will be looking at the changes to the rules and regulations next.

F. Subcommittee Functions

- Subcommittees have traditionally met via email, but E. Schultz received feedback that subcommittee members might be interested in face-to-face meetings, especially when unique situations arise.
- Subcommittee co-chairs were also encouraged to meet with proposers – either in person or via Skype – whenever interesting proposals come up.

**5. Subcommittee Reports**

A. CA3 Report (CA3 Report\_9-20-18)

a. SPSS 1060 The Great American Lawn: History, Culture and Sustainability [CA2, CA3] (#6267) [New]

- B. Goffinet summarized the subcommittee's discussions on this course, which were somewhat influenced by the standard established with EL, that the content should be present "throughout" the course. The committee took pains to ensure they were not being biased simply because the course was seeking two designations; they asked, "If it was not seeking CA2, would we still feel the course was lacking?"
- It was noted that the CA3 report does discuss the comparison of CA2 to CA3 content, so if the subcommittee's discussions did not take the CA2 status into account, then it was suggested the report might need to be rewritten to better capture the discussion.
- One member felt that the course was not actually being judged on the Gen Ed guidelines. The argument of the subcommittee is that the guidelines are intentionally vague, and we give the subcommittees the power to make judgements, otherwise we would just give blanket approval to anyone who filled out a CAR.
- E. Schultz noted that he has heard from the proposer. He suggested that the committee consider sending the proposal forward with the approved CA2 at this point and send feedback to the instructor about the CA3 designation.

**M. Morrell moved to send the course forward to Senate C&C with only the CA2 designation.**

- There was additional discussion about the extent to which CA2 is represented throughout the course. One member suggested that the CA2 does not run throughout, in which case, the course runs into the same problems that CA3 has noted and used as a means to deny the course.
- Speaking as a CA2 co-chair, one member argued that the CA2 content was in fact present throughout.

**The motion was approved.**

- The CA3 subcommittee will go back to look at the course again and speak with the proposer.

**B. Goffinet withdrew the CA3 report.**

B. Q Report

- a. Update on Q assessment
  - The committee has spoken with Eric Loken on how to proceed. They have selected six courses in six departments that will be assessed and will send messages to department heads.
  - One member reminded the committee to consider the regional campuses when assessing Q courses. E. Schultz will include this point in the letter to department heads.

C. W Report

- a. MCB 3841W Research Literature in Molecular and Cell Biology [W] (#6026) [Revise pre-reqs]
  - There was some misunderstanding on the next steps regarding this course. The subcommittee will review the course.

**6. Old Business**

A. Learning Outcomes for Second Language General Education courses

- There are no updates at this time.

B. GEOC Policy and Procedures Guide: discuss sections 'GEOC Policies' and 'Course Proposal Procedures' (see 'GEOC Policy Guide\_Fall 2018 Updates\_KP.docx')

- It was questioned why the W and Q Center representatives are ex-officio. This stipulation is down in the rules and regulations, but E. Schultz noted that he can seek guidance on this if desired.
- One member suggested that because these are permanent positions, it is a somewhat inappropriate to give them a permanent vote on the committee regarding curricular matters.
- One member noted that "Freshmen English" needs to be changed to "First Year Writing" in the document.
- There was a reminder to remove the Computer Technology Competency once it is officially deleted by the Senate.

**7. Course Action Requests**

A. ARIS 1211 Introduction to Islam [CA1, CA4-INT] (#6247) [New]

- This course was a Provost's Competition winner.

**This course was referred to subcommittees CA1 and CA4.**

B. BME 3600W Biomechanics [W] (#7491) [Revise Prereq]

- The main question is whether or not the change in pre-requisite has any bearing on the course's W-ness.
- There does not appear to be anything about revision in the syllabus.

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

C. ILCS 1180 Adaptation: Italian Literature into Film [CA1-B, CA4-INT] (#6927) [New]

- No discussion.

**This course was referred to CA1 and CA4.**

D. MCB 3842W Current Investigations in Cancer Cell Biology [W] (#7031) [New]

- No discussion.

**This course was referred to W.**

E. MCB 3843W Research Literature in Comparative Genomics [W] (#7030) [New]

- No discussion.

**This course was referred to W.**

F. MCB 3845W Microbial Diversity, Ecology and Evolution [W] (#7032) [New]

- E. Schultz noted some catalog copy edits he made to bring the copy in line with catalog conventions, and an additional word was struck. The W subcommittee should engage with the proposer to possibly make some additional wordsmithing changes.
- There is no information on revision. The syllabus mentions, feedback, but not revisions.

**This course was referred to W.**

G. 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. An updated syllabus has been received.*

- E. Schultz engaged with proposer to ensure the W clause was included in the syllabus. The proposal is old and is only requesting a change in prereq.
- There was a question as to whether there is information about revision in the syllabus. Yes, there is.

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

H. PORT 1101 Elementary Portuguese I [SL] (#7131) [New]

- No discussion.

**This course was referred to SL.**

I. PORT 1102 Elementary Portuguese II [SL] (#7132) [New]

- No discussion.

**This course was referred to SL.**

J. WGSS 3217 Women, Gender and Film [W] (#5790) [Level change, add W version]

- No discussion.

**This course was referred to W.**

## **8. New Business**

- a. 4/20 implementation part of General Education Environmental Literacy Task Force (GEELTF) report (see 'EL Report to Senate\_30 April 2018.pdf')

**M. Morrell motioned to consider the implementation section of the report. M. Wagner seconded.**

- When is the earliest this would go into effect? We are looking at 2019-20.
  - The EL field in the online CAR is now live. A GEOC EL subcommittee will soon be populated, but you can now officially propose an EL course.
  - It was felt we should defer consideration of this motion for multiple reasons.
  - We've started to draft a call for the Provost's Competition that would encourage EL courses. There was discussion whether the competition would be exclusively for EL courses or, as always, if it will be open to all courses but will encourage courses in the EL area.
  - There was a suggestion of earmarking competition funds specifically for EL, but there is a danger of funding under-developed proposals.
  - The committee generally felt that the competition part of the recommendations was unnecessary.
  - There was concern that the first sentence of the report is a red flag; we are trying to approve implementation, but we are admitting that we don't have capacity. One member suggested moving the sentence to the top of the implementation section.
  - The Nominating Committee is currently populating an EL subcommittee.
- b. Further revisions to Senate Rules and Regulations pertaining to Environmental Literacy (see 'Revisions to Senate Rules and Regs II.C.2 2018\_amended for EL')
- c. Possible requirement that at least one W course should be in the English language.
- d. Possible change of W requirement on paper length, from page length to word number

## **9. 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