



GEOC Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2019 – 2:00pm-3:30pm 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 2:00 pm.

1. Welcome and Regrets

2. Past and Future

- A. Minutes of February 25, 2019 meeting ('Minutes_2-25-19.docx')
- The committee did not go hunting for Easter Eggs.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

B. Next Meeting: Monday, April 1 – 1:00pm-2:30pm

- Expect a report from ΔGE on April 1. We will reserve as much of the meeting for discussion as possible. E. Schultz will clarify what he is asking the committee to do regarding the report.
- Progress reports from Provost's Competition past winners will be forthcoming as well. There will be at least one report at the last meeting, which will also feature comestibles.

3. Chair's Report

A. ΔGE Working Group

- There is a survey out. Please respond. The Provost's Office will send out a request to complete the survey, but they need to make it clear that they are not administratively requiring it.
- E. Schultz met with the faculty council at the Hartford campus and with the Honors Board. Bob Day talked with the Stamford campus yesterday as well. E. Schultz will be meeting with CAHNR deans and department heads, and there are plans to visit the Waterbury Campus.

4. Subcommittee Reports

A. CA1 Report (see 'CA1 Report_3-12-19')

- a. AASI/HIST 3820 History of Modern Chinese Political Thought [CA1, CA4] (#9587) [Revise description; adding CA1 & CA4]
- b. AMST/CLCS/HEJS 2204 Jewish Culture in American Film [CA1-A, CA4] (#7892) [New Course]
- c. HIST 1450 Global History of the Second World War [CA1-C, CA4-Int] (#10497) [New Course]
- d. HIST/CAMS 3326 Ancient Rome: Emperors & Barbarians [CA1-C] (#9977) [New Cross-listed Course]


- e. LAND 2210 The Common (Shared) Landscape of the USA: Rights, Responsibilities & Values [CA1, E] (#9751) [Add E] – Review for continued CA1 compliance
- The subcommittee would like the two HIST courses to include more information about their Gen Ed nature in the syllabi.
- The subcommittee found the syllabus lacking for the LAND course, especially with regard to the grading. The co-chairs will communicate with the proposers to ask for updates. They will make it clear that we are not requiring a change to the grading policy; rather as a best practice, the proposer should explain how the grading checks will translate into percentages.
- One member noted that there is research that shows students do not understand grading systems that rely on checks. Even simple systems like 0, 1, 2, 3 make more sense to students.

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted for the approval of AASI/HIST 3820, AMST/CLCS/HEJS 2204, HIST 1450, and HIST/CAMS 3326. LAND 2210 needs revision.

B. CA2 Report

- a. ANTH/EVST 3340 Culture and Conservation [CA2, CA4-Int, E] (#8803) [Add recommended prep; Add CA2, CA4-Int, and E]
- b. EVST 1000 Introduction to Environmental Studies [CA2, E] (#9604) [Add E]
- c. GEOG 2400 Introduction to Sustainable Cities [CA2, CA4] (#9587) [Revise description; adding CA2 & CA4]

C. CA4 Report (see 'CA4 Report_3-12-19')

- a. AASI/HIST 3820 History of Modern Chinese Political Thought [CA1, CA4] (#9587) [Revise description; adding CA1 & CA4]
- b. AMST/CLCS/HEJS 2204 Jewish Culture in American Film [CA1, CA4] (#9587) [Revise description; adding CA1 & CA4]
- c. ANTH/EVST 3340 Culture and Conservation [CA2, CA4] (#9587) [Revise description; adding CA2 & CA4]
- d. DRAM 3130 Women in Theatre [CA4] (#9587) [Revise description]
- e. GEOG 2400 Introduction to Sustainable Cities [CA2, CA4-Int, E] (#9587) [Add E]
- f. HIST 1450 Global History of the Second World War [CA1, CA4] (#9587) [Revise description; adding CA1 & CA4]
- "Everything is good in CA4 land." All of the courses met CA4 guidelines. 

The CA4 Report was accepted as submitted for the approval of AASI/HIST 3820, AMST/CLCS/HEJS 2204, ANTH/EVST 3340, DRAM 3130, GEOG 2400, and HIST 1450.

D. Q Report

- a. Q Assessment Updates
- There is nothing new to report.

E. W Report (see 'W Report_3-12-19')

- a. COMM 4035W Advanced Media Effects – Proposer has requested more feedback on how the syllabus needs to be revised
- b. MCB 3841W Research Literature in Molecular and Cell Biology – ON HOLD

- c. POLS 3030/W Settler Colonialism/Indigenous Thought and Practice [W] (#9892) [New Course]
- d. POLS/WGSS 3027/W Historical Women Political Thinkers [W] (#9893) [New Cross-listed Course]
- The POLS courses can move forward.
- The MCB course cannot move forward because we appear to be at an impasse with the proposer regarding the syllabi.
- More discussion needs to be had with the COMM proposers because there is disagreement on what needs to happen with the submitted syllabus.

The W Report was accepted as submitted for the approval of POLS 3030/W and POLS/WGSS 3027/W.

- F. E Report (see 'E Report_3-12-19')
 - a. PHAR 1001 Toxic Chemicals and Health
 - b. ANTH/EVST 3340 Culture and Conservation [CA2, CA4-Int, E] (#8803) [Add recommended prep; Add CA2, CA4-Int, and E]
 - c. ARE 1110 Population, Food, and the Environment [CA2, E] (#10617) [Adding E]
 - d. LAND 2201 The Common (Shared) Landscape of the USA: Rights, Responsibilities & Values [CA1, E] (#9751) [Add E]
 - e. SPSS 2500 Principles and Concepts of Agroecology [E] (#10877) [Revise description; add E]
 - f. ENGL 3635 Literature and the Environment
 - g. ENGL 3715 Nature Writing Workshop
 - h. GSCI 1050 Earth's Dynamic Environment [CA3-Lab, E] (#10376) [Add E]
 - i. GSCI 1051 Earth's Dynamic Environment [CA3, E] (#9974) [Add E]
 - j. ARE 4438 Valuing the Environment [E] (#10621) [Add E]
 - k. ARE 4462 Environmental and Resource Economics [E] (#10622) [Add E]
 - l. EVST 1000 Introduction to Environmental Studies [CA2, E] (#9604) [Add E]
 - m. GEOG 2400 Introduction to Sustainable Cities [CA2, CA4-Int, E] (#8801) [Adding E]
 - n. GSCI 1010 Dinosaurs, Extinctions, and Environmental Catastrophes [CA3, E] (#10377) [Add E]
 - o. GSCI 1055 Geoscience and the American Landscape [CA3, E] (#9975) [Add E; remove "formerly offered"]
 - p. GSCI 2500 Earth System Science [E] (#9971) [Add E]
 - q. NURS 4250 Public Health Nursing [E] (#9715) [New E]
- There was a divided vote on the PHAR course, but it ultimately passed. The other classes were relatively straight-forward.
- A preliminary vote on the GSCI courses indicated that they would not pass as Es, but they are the largest enrollment courses the committee has reviewed, so there is much at stake. The problem is that the courses do not touch on human interaction enough to qualify for E at this time.
- There is concern that this will not go over well with the department. Geoscience is one of the major environmental departments at the university, but the course does not confer environmental literacy as the university has defined it.

- One suggestion was to survey other universities that include environmental studies and see how they incorporate geoscience.
- Another member suggested discussion sections that could incorporate human interaction content in order to meet E criteria. The danger is at what point it becomes a new course.
- If in fact the GSCI courses are rejected, this will require a face-to-face discussion with the proposers. One member asked if the name “Environmental Literacy” a misnomer. No, the definition we use is fairly international. All definitions we have found include human interaction.

The E Report was accepted as submitted for the approval of PHAR 1001, ANTH/EVST 3340, ARE 1110, LAND 2210, and SPSS 2500.

5. Alignment Reports

- A. CA1 Alignment Report (see ‘CA1 Alignment Report_2019’)
- HIST/LLAS 3609 Latino and Latin American Studies Research Seminar - ALIGNS
 - NRE 1235 Environmental Conservation - ALIGNS
 - POLS 1002 Introduction to Political Theory – ALIGNS
- No discussion.

The CA1 Alignment Report was accepted as submitted.

- B. CA2 Alignment Report (see ‘CA2 Alignment Report_2019’)
- POLS 1202 Introduction to Comparative Politics - ALIGNS
 - POLS 1602/W Introduction to American Politics – PENDING MORE INFORMATION
 - SOCI 1101 Introduction to Sociology - ALIGNS
 - SOCI 1501/W Race, Class and Gender – ALIGNS
- There were issues with POLS 1602/W, so we are awaiting updates. The other three courses were good to go.

The CA2 Alignment Report was accepted as submitted.

- C. CA3 Alignment Report (see ‘CA3 Alignment Report_2019’)
- NRE 1000 Environmental Science - ALIGNS
- A couple members questioned what the 3 of 4 votes meant in the report, but the CA3 subcommittee declined to explain.

The CA3 Alignment Report was accepted as submitted.

- D. CA4 Alignment Report (see ‘CA4 Alignment Report 2019’)

- a. LLAS/HIST 3609 Latin America in the National Period - ALIGNS
- b. NRE 2600 Global Sustainable Natural Resources - ALIGNS
- c. POLS 1202 Introduction to Comparative Politics - ALIGNS
- d. SOCI 1501W Race, Class, and Gender - ALIGNS
- No discussion.

The CA4 Alignment Report was accepted as submitted.

- E. W Alignment Report(see 'W Alignment Report_2019')
 - a. LLAS 4994W Latin American Studies Research Seminar - ALIGNS
 - b. NRE 4697W Undergraduate Research Thesis in Natural Resources – DOES NOT ALIGN
 - c. POLS 1602W Introduction to American Politics – PENDING NEW SYLLABI
 - d. SOCI 1501W Race, Class, and Gender - ALIGNS
- One subcommittee expressed intimidation at the use of hyperlinks in the W report and asked that the W subcommittee “stop raising the bar.”
- The syllabus for LLAS 4994W was so impressive that the committee would like it to be distributed as an example. E. Schultz will send the syllabus to CETL for posting on their website.
- The subcommittee was not unanimous on the alignment of the SOCI course.
- E. Schultz will notify NRE about the non-alignment of their course. One member noted that the syllabus submitted was probably the “skeleton syllabus” that is provided to NRE faculty.
- One member felt that many courses are deficient in W simply because faculty do not realize certain things need to be in the syllabi. We will continue to examine the guidance that we give course proposers in the CAR about syllabi.
- One member had questions about the comment in the SOCI course about writing in the discipline.

The W Alignment Report was accepted as submitted.

6. Old Business

- A. Learning Outcomes for Second Language General Education courses
- B. W Guideline Changes?
 - a. Possible requirement that at least one W course should be in the English language
 - b. Possible change of W requirement on paper length, from page length to word number

7. Course Action Requests

Older Requests

- A. EDCI 1100 If You Love It, Teach It [CA2] (#5021) [New CA2]
Note: This course is being held pending clarification of which content areas are being sought.

- B. NRE 3145 Meteorology [E] (#9697) [Revise prereqs, add E]
Note: This course is being held pending more Gen Ed justification.
- C. NRE 3146 Climatology [E] (#9812) [Add E]
Note: This course is being held pending more Gen Ed justification.

New Requests

- A. ARE 3434 Environmental and Resource Policy [E] (#10938) [Add E]
- The CAR mentions the course being taught as a W, but the W is a 1-credit add-on. The course will be referred to E only.

This course was referred to E.

- B. ARE 3437 Marine Fisheries Economics and Policy [E] (#10939) [Add E]
- No discussion.

This course was referred to E.

- C. ECON 3466 Environmental Economics [E] (#11127) [Add E]
- No discussion.

This course was referred to E.

- D. GEOG 1300 Weather, Climate and Environment [CA3, E] (#10034) [Add CA3 and E]
- One CA3 co-chair had concerns about the CA3 justification, but CA3 will engage with the proposer directly.

This course was referred to CA3 and E.

- E. GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography [CA2, CA4-Int] (#10094) [Add CA2 and CA4-Int]
- No discussion.

This course was referred to CA2 and CA4.

- F. GSCI/GEOG 1070 Natural Disasters and Environmental Change [CA3, E] (#10378) [Add E]
- The course was reviewed recently by CA3, so it will only be sent to E.

This course was referred to E.

- G. GSCI/GEOG 2310 National Parks Unearthed: Geology & Landscapes Through Time [E] (#10379) [Add E]
- No discussion, although it was felt the E will be questionable.

This course was referred to E.

- H. HIST/AMST 2810 Crime, Policing, and Punishment in the United States [CA1-C] (#8136) [Add CA1 and AMST cross-listing]
- No discussion.

This course was referred to CA1.

- I. SPSS 2100 Environmental Sustainability of Food Production in Developed Countries [E] (#10898)
[Add E]

- No discussion.

This course was referred to E.

8. Coming Up

- A. Report from Δ GenEd
- B. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed
- C. Presentation from First-Year Writing

Meeting adjourned at 2:27pm

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