



GEOC Meeting Minutes

April 16, 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 1:00 pm.

1. Welcome and Regrets

- A. Regrets: Beth, Kathleen, Jason, Bernard, Chunsheng
- B. Congratulations to M. Wagner on being appointed the new GEOC Chair.

2. Past and Future

- A. Minutes of April 1, 2019 meeting (see 'Minutes_4-1-19.docx')
 - There were no changes to the minutes.

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

- B. Final Meeting: Monday, April 29 – 1:00pm-2:30pm (Lunch Served!)
- C. Fall Meeting Schedule – Expect a Doodle Poll?
 - K. McDermott will connect with M. Wagner about her schedule for the Fall and construct a poll.

3. Chair's Report

- A. ΔGE Report vote in the Senate C&C
 - Thirteen GEOC members weighed in on the straw poll. The final tally was 8 ayes, 4 nays, and 1 abstention. Ironically, all non-voting members voted.
 - Senate C&C reviewed the DeltaGE report, and there was a motion at the meeting to accept the report and empanel a Delta2GE group that will conduct further work. The motion passed unanimously.
 - What happens from here is not completely clear. The report was released to the Senate yesterday for their review, prior to other meeting materials.
 - Anyone can attend the Senate meeting and ask to be recognized by a Senator to speak on the report.
 - One member asked how strictly we will adhere to the recommendations in the report based on the motion. E. Schultz indicated that he cannot answer that. This entire process has been a negotiation between vision and practice, and we can expect that there may be changes if practicality will not support the vision.

B. GEOC Annual Report

- The report is due Friday. E. Schultz is finalizing it now, and the report will be available to the committee.

C. Additional Provost's Competition Funds to a 2017-18 Winner

- Additional funds were awarded to Challa Kumar in the amount of \$2500 for a summer Teaching Assistant to do some work with videos.
- The class involves multimodal writing, so C. Kumar should talk to the Writing Center.

4. Special Report

A. First Year Writing Report on ENGL 1003 and ENGL 1004 (see 'Preliminary Perspectives on 1003 and 1004')

- L. Blansett shared a PowerPoint with an overview of the results of the First Year Writing (FYW) Assessment on ENGL 1003 and ENGL 1004.
- The vast majority of visa-holding students who attend UConn are from main-land China.
- There was a 529% increase in enrollment for ENGL 1003 and ENGL 1004 from 2017 to 2018.
- The assessment had multiple takeaways, including the following:
 - The quality of the writing was directly related to the quality of the writing prompt.
 - International students often struggled with classes/prompts that focused on American culture.
 - Talking about language and how it works was more effective than focusing on correcting grammar.
- The FYW Program put forth eleven recommendations. One of the biggest recommendations was that multilingual writers need to be valued for that ability rather than cast as deficient.
- A longer report will be forthcoming. Graduate students are still doing some final analysis.
- One GEOC member asked for more details about the courses, such as how big the courses are, who staffs them, and what the cost of offering them is.
- L. Blansett indicated that course funding comes from Global Affairs for the most part.
- Both courses are taught primarily by adjuncts. ENGL 1003 is capped at 15, and ENGL 1004 capped at 17, although the field standard is 12.
- Another member asked what background/training is required of adjuncts. Originally FYW looked for those with TESOL certification, but at one point they could not find enough instructors. They began to look for those who had some experience teaching multilingual writing, and then supplemented that experience with training. There are financial limitations to training and workshops, though.
- In general, FYW has a lot of vision, but as always there are problems with practicality.
- One member noted that FYW's recommendations can seemingly be grouped into categories, e.g. best practices and pedagogy, aspirations, etc.
- One member asked if FYW has engaged with CETL. L. Blansett indicated that she goes over once a week, but CETL does not necessarily have a lot of resources for this particular population yet.
- FYW is expecting two new APiRs who will teach these courses.
- One member asked how students can "capitalize on their knowledge of rhetoric and composition in their home languages," as noted in the presentation. L. Blansett indicated that this often involves a conversation with students about what counts as persuasion or

what counts as evidence when writing in their home language. These questions open up discussions.

- One member expressed that this helps validate students' multilingual identities and helps break away from the 'erase and reprogram' mentality.
- There was general appreciation for the term "emergent bilinguals."
- Multilingual students who struggle with composition in English are generally those who also struggle with composition in their home language. They are no different than other students.
- What is the message to the W instructors based on these findings? One member suggested adding a recommendation about building up the program.
- FYW also did pre-pilot research this semester and will analyze data over the summer.
- FYW extended its thanks to GEOC for the funding support. No assessment of these courses and this population has ever been done, so this was an important project.

5. Subcommittee Reports

A. CA1 Report (see 'CA1 Report_4-16-19')

- a. HIST/AMST 2810 Crime, Policing, and Punishment in the United States [CA1-C] (#8136) [Add CA1 and AMST cross-listing]
- b. LAND 2201 The Common (Shared) Landscape of the USA: Rights, Responsibilities & Values [CA1, E] (#9751) [Add E] – Review for continued CA1 compliance
 - The subcommittee had no doubts about the HIST/AMST course. They had questions about the LAND course but communicated with the proposer and doubts were alleviated.
 - M. Gomes will forward new information to K. McDermott and E. Schultz.

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted (approval of HIST/AMST 2810 & LAND 2210).

B. CA2 Report

- a. EDCI 1100 If You Love It, Teach It [CA2] (#5021) [New CA2]

C. CA3 Report (see 'CA3 Report_4-16-19')

- a. GEOG 1300 Weather, Climate and Environment [CA3, E] (#10034) [Add CA3 and E]
 - The CA3 report was updated to reflect a vote that came in after the report was sent.
 - K. McDermott and/or E. Schultz will check to verify that the updates indicated in the report are added to CAR.

M. Morrell motioned to send GEOG 1300 forward to the Senate C&C for CA3 consideration before the E has been approved. M. Gomes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The CA3 Report was accepted as submitted (approval of GEOG 1300).

D. CA4 Report

- a. GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography [CA2, CA4-Int] (#10094) [Add CA2 and CA4-Int]

E. Q Report

- a. Q Assessment Updates
 - The group will meet tomorrow.

F. W Report

- a. COMM 4035W Advanced Media Effects [W] (#9484) [Revise number and prereqs]

- G. E Report (see 'E Report_4-1-19')
- a. ARE 3434 Environmental and Resource Policy [E] (#10938) [Add E]
 - b. ARE 3437 Marine Fisheries Economics and Policy [E] (#10939) [Add E]
 - c. ECON 3466 Environmental Economics [E] (#11127) [Add E]
 - d. ENGL 3635 Literature and the Environment [CA1, E] (#8461) [Level change, Add CA1 and E]
 - e. ENGL 3715 Nature Writing Workshop [E] (#8959) [Add E]
 - f. GEOG 1300 Weather, Climate and Environment [CA3, E] (#10034) [Add CA3 and E]
 - g. GSCI 1055 Geoscience and the American Landscape [CA3, E] (#9975) [Add E; remove "formerly offered"]
 - h. GSCI/GEOG 1070 Natural Disasters and Environmental Change [CA3, E] (#10378) [Add E]
 - i. GSCI/GEOG 2310 National Parks Unearthed: Geology & Landscapes Through Time [E] (#10379) [Add E]
 - j. SPSS 2100 Environmental Sustainability of Food Production in Developed Countries [E] (#10898) [Add E]
 - Both courses needed revised syllabi. Both courses will advance to Senate C&C.

The E Report was accepted as submitted (approval of ENGL 3635 & ENGL 3715).

- One member asked if these courses would make the final Senate meeting. They will not. But in response to capacity concerns, it was noted that NRE 1000E is an ECE course and about 300 students can potentially bring in E credit this Fall.
- E. Schultz also indicated that we can push ECE to offer NRE 1000E in catchment areas of the regional campuses, such as Waterbury, where it may be more difficult for students to earn their E credit.

6. Alignment Reports

A. CA2 Alignment Report

- a. POLS 1602/W

B. W Alignment Report

- a. POLS 1602W

- We still have not received syllabi from the department.

7. Old Business

A. Learning Outcomes for Second Language General Education courses

- There are no updates at this time.

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
 - There are no updates at this time.

8. Course Action Requests

Oldest Requests

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

Older Requests

- A. ANTH 1010 Global Climate Change and Human Societies [CA2, CA4-INT, E] (#8737) [Add E]
 - There was no discussion of note.

This course was referred to CA2, CA4, & E.

- B. DMD 2620 Human Development, Digital Media, and Technology [CA2, CA4] (#9363) [New CA2, CA4]
 - It was noted that this is an Honors Core course, and it will likely be coming back to us soon regarding prereq language. Should we hold the course? Send it back?
 - Members felt we should let the subcommittees look at it while E. Schultz will check with the proposer and college about the prereq language.

This course was referred to CA2 & CA4.

- C. DRAM 2134 Honors Core: Sports as Performance [CA1] (#10194) [Revise enrollment restrictions]
 - The course was very recently reviewed, so we do not really need to review it again this soon.
 - There were questions about the “Honors Core” in the title, but this is normal for a course that this offered only as an Honors Core course.

M. Morrell motioned to send this course to the Senate C&C. M. Gomes seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

- D. ECON 1107 Honors Core: Economics, Nature, and the Environment [CA2, E] (#11128) [Add E; revise enrollment restrictions]
 - One member noted that the CA2 criteria were plagiarized in the CAR from the GEOC website.

This course was referred to CA2 & E.

- E. EEB 2244/W General Ecology [W, E] (#10114) [Add E; revise prereqs]
 - There was no discussion of note.

This course was referred to W & E.

- F. GSCI 2800E Our Evolving Atmosphere [CA3, E] (#6867) [New CA3, E]

- There was some question as to potential overlap with courses in NRE. GEOC can send the course to the subcommittees but inform proposers that they may get questions about the overlap.
- Is it our job to police this? In comments section, it looks like there was consultation with the NRE department. We will make the subcommittees aware of this when they review.

This course was referred to CA3 & E.

G. MATH 2705W Technical Writing in Mathematics [W] (#11517) [New W]

- There was discussion of the type of writing involved in math proofs.

This course was referred to W.

H. MCB 3844W Microbes and the Media [W] (#7029) [New W]

- There was no discussion of note.

This course was referred to W.

New Requests

A. BME 3600W Biomechanics [W] (#11861) [Drop W version]

- There was no discussion of note. This course has been lurking for a while, and we will be glad to send it on its way.

M. Morrell motioned to send this course to the Senate C&C. L. Blansett seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29pm

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