



## GEOC Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2019 – 1:00pm-2:30pm 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 1:02 pm.

### 1. Preliminaries

- A. Call-ins: Dial 1-888-396-9925, passcode: 50272#
- B. Lunch

### 2. Welcome and Regrets

- A. Regrets: Chunsheng Yang, all semester

### 3. Past and Future

- A. Minutes of April 16, 2019 meeting (see 'Minutes\_4-16-19.docx')
  - There are no changes to the minutes.

**The Minutes were approved as submitted.**

- B. Fall Meeting Schedule

### 4. 2017-18 Provost's Competition Progress Reports

- A. CHEM 3570W - *Challa Kumar* (see 'Kumar\_CHEM 3570W\_Progress Report')
  - C. Kumar was present and gave the committee a brief overview of the work he did on the course. He noted that, among other things, experiments can now be done on hand-held, wireless devices, which has saved time and allowed the class to focus more on the writing component of the class.
  - The course has multiple opportunities for students to expand writing assignments.
  - Students are given four laws of writing and asked to apply these laws to their assigns again and again.
  - Writing is an important human activity, integral to our culture and our evolutionary development.
  - Science students have apparently never been exposed to a continuum of creative to technical writing; that has been his experience with CHEM students.

- E. Schultz noted that C. Kumar should make use of GEOC to help disseminate the videos, since the original proposal wanted to make them generally available.
  - One member asked, “What did you learn about writing yourself?” Writing is a discovery. When you write, you figure out what you did not know before. B. Brueggemann will be asking C. Kumar to do a blog post for Aetna.
- B. DRAM 3130 - *Lindsay Cummings* (see ‘Cummings\_DRAM 3130\_Progress Report’)
- L. Cummings was present to discuss her work on the course. The course was in desperate need of updating; the language was very out-of-date, even offensive. This needed to be done regardless, but the grant facilitated this work.
  - L. Cummings would like the course to be CA1, but she is focusing on CA4 for now. The department is struggling with staffing. They have not been able to replace faculty who have retired/left.
  - The course explores the primary action of the artist. What is the artist doing with the work? There is focus on specific themes or categories.
  - One of things GEOC liked about the proposal were the monologues. How do they work in this course? L. Cummings explained how students can imagine themselves in a particular situation and deliver an expression of ideas based on that.
  - C. Kumar indicated that he adopted this technique in his class after learning about it from their first meeting.
- C. PSYC 1100 - *Jamie Kleinman* (see ‘Kleinman\_PSYC 1100\_Progress Report’)
- J. Kleinman was present to explain the work done on the class, especially specifications grading.
  - Online quizzing is used as a learning tool rather than an assessment tool.
  - The course exposes students to primary source material and uses online discussions.
  - Tokens are used in specifications grading. J. Kleinman found that about 60% of tokens are left on the table in NRE, and that has been the case with PSYC as well.
  - She did not get resistance from students about the grading. She sent a 5-minute video to students about how the grading worked and that was huge. It helped clear up confusion, and she will share this with GEOC.
  - The course allows students to submit their homework in various formats: written, PowerPoint, youtube video, etc.
  - How big are these classes? Eighty seats in Fall, 35-40 in Spring.
  - Is there a higher rate of failure at the start? A little. There is a learning curve, but this is also because she is very strict at the start and students learn quickly to only turn in good work.

## 5. Chair’s Report

- A. GEOC Annual Report (see ‘GEOC Annual Report 2018-19’)
- E. Schultz will not deliver a verbal version of this report. The report is in the meeting packet.
  - We are in pretty good shape for Storrs as far as E courses, although we do need more seats. There are concerns about the regional campuses and E courses at this point. There needs to be considerable engagement with the Provost’s office to make sure the regional campuses have sufficient resources.

- We do not necessarily need more classes; we need more seats in what we already have. Budgets are an issue for all departments, though. GEOC may need to take a more active role in promoting resources.

B. Funding request for a campus art installation (*with B. Goffinet*)

- B. Goffinet made a pitch for GEOC to donate \$5000 to an art installation.

**M. Morrell motioned for GEOC to pledge \$5000. K. Tonry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Report on the Future of General Education Conference - M. Wagner and B. Brueggemann**

- The food was great, and the event was also very well-organized.
- One presentation (Ted Talk format) gave an overview of a school's Gen Ed revision, including what they did, how they did it, and why. If you cannot talk about what you're doing in very simple terms, you're doing something wrong. They talked about the pedagogy that has to come with it.
- Diversity came up as a topic again and again.

**7. Subcommittee Reports**

A. CA2 Report

- ANTH 1010 Global Climate Change and Human Societies [CA2, CA4-INT, E] (#8737) [Add E]
  - DMD 2620 Human Development, Digital Media, and Technology [CA2, CA4] (#9363) [New CA2, CA4]
  - ECON 1107 Honors Core: Economics, Nature, and the Environment [CA2, E] (#11128) [Add E; revise enrollment restrictions]
  - EDCI 1100 If You Love It, Teach It [CA2] (#5021) [New CA2]
- The Co-Chairs will follow up for more info on the ECON course, but they will not hold it up.
  - The subcommittee is not ready to move on DMD 2620 yet. They have been communicating with the proposer already about the Honors prereqs. E. Schultz offered to convey concerns since he is already connected to the proposer.
  - One concern is that it is co-taught with someone from HDFS but it is not cross-list.

**The CA2 Report was accepted as submitted (approval of ANTH 1010 & ECON 1107).**

B. Q Report

- Q Assessment Updates
- Members had a meeting with Eric Loken. He has done interviews for five out of six courses.
  - There was originally some concern, but things appear to be progressing.

C. W Report (see 'W Report\_4-29-19')

- COMM 4035W Advanced Media Effects [W] (#9484) [Revise number and prereqs]
  - EEB 2244/W General Ecology [W, E] (#10114) [Add E; revise prereqs]
  - MATH 2705W Technical Writing in Mathematics [W] (#11517) [New W]
  - MCB 3844W Microbes and the Media [W] (#7029) [New W]
- L. Blansett explained the report. While there was some confusion, ultimately the W subcommittee felt the COMM course met the W criteria.

**The W Report was accepted as submitted (approval of COMM 4035W).**

#### D. E Report

- a. ANTH 1010 Global Climate Change and Human Societies [CA2, CA4-INT, E] (#8737) [Add E]
  - b. ARE 3434 Environmental and Resource Policy [E] (#10938) [Add E]
  - c. ARE 3437 Marine Fisheries Economics and Policy [E] (#10939) [Add E]
  - d. ECON 1107 Honors Core: Economics, Nature, and the Environment [CA2, E] (#11128) [Add E; revise enrollment restrictions]
  - e. ECON 3466 Environmental Economics [E] (#11127) [Add E]
  - f. EEB 2244/W General Ecology [W, E] (#10114) [Add E; revise prereqs]
  - g. GEOG 1300 Weather, Climate and Environment [CA3, E] (#10034) [Add CA3 and E]
  - h. GSCI 1055 Geoscience and the American Landscape [CA3, E] (#9975) [Add E; remove “formerly offered”]
  - i. GSCI/GEOG 1070 Natural Disasters and Environmental Change [CA3, E] (#10378) [Add E]
  - j. GSCI/GEOG 2310 National Parks Unearthed: Geology & Landscapes Through Time [E] (#10379) [Add E]
  - k. GSCI 2800E Our Evolving Atmosphere [CA3, E] (#6867) [New CA3, E]
  - l. SPSS 2100 Environmental Sustainability of Food Production in Developed Countries [E] (#10898) [Add E]
- Some GSCI courses were again rejected, but GSCI has decided to create a course that will fulfill the E rather than altering their existing GSCI courses.
  - The subcommittee will resume work in the fall.
  - They will need to replace the group’s Fine Arts member. A good person to ask would be Janet Pritchard herself. If not, K. Tonry has an idea; she will email E. Schultz.

**The E Report was accepted as submitted (approval of ARE 3434, ARE 3437, ECON 3466, GEOG 1300, SPSS 2100; rejection of GSCI/GEOC 1070 & GSCI/GEOG 2310).**

#### 8. Alignment

- A. POLS 1602/W (CA2 and W Review Pending receipt of new syllabi. Hold until 2019-20?)
  - There are no updates.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

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