



GEOC Meeting Minutes

September 5, 2019 – 2:00pm-3:30pm in Rowe 420

Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:

Manuela Wagner – Chair, (Karen McDermott – Admin), Fabrice Baudoin, Pamela Bedore (Ex-Officio), Lisa Blansett, Brenda Brueggemann, Kun Chen, Robert Day, Kelly Dennis, George Gibson, Beth Ginsberg, Miguel Gomes, Jason Irizarry, Mary Ellen Junda, Suman Majumdar, Olivier Morand, Tom Scheinfeldt, Kathleen Tonry, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Jason Vokoun

Meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.

1. Preliminaries

- A. Call-ins: Dial 1-866-857-0502, passcode: 2023183#
- B. Lunch/Afternoon Snack

2. Welcome and Regrets

Regrets: Beth Ginsberg, Olivier Morand

3. Past and Future

- A. Minutes of April 16, 2019 meeting (see 'Minutes_4-16-19.docx')

The Minutes were approved as submitted.

B. Fall Meeting Schedule:

Mon, Sept. 16 – 10:00am-11:30am
Thurs, Oct. 3 – 2:00pm-3:30pm
Mon, Oct. 14 – 10:00am-11:30am
Thurs, Oct. 31 – 2:00pm-3:30pm
Mon, Nov. 11 – 10:00am-11:30am
Thurs, Dec. 5 – 2:00pm-3:30pm

4. Chair's Report

A. Hyphenated Course Review (*Guest Jennifer Terni*)

- The Registrar requested that departments change the catalog copy for hyphenated courses to split them. This would be a cosmetic change, and some departments have numerous courses that are effected, which would result in countless hours of work to fill out CARs for each set.
- One member asked if there are any cases where one course of the two would lose its Gen Ed designation. Most courses are reviewed as separate entities. They are just listed together, so it is unlikely that any course would lose its designation.

- The reason for this request is that changing the catalog copy is not required, so if the process is going to be too onerous, there is a danger that departments may not bother with it. The expedited process is an attempt to promote departmental compliance.
- K. McDermott assured members that part of the agreement for the expedited process is that any Gen Ed courses reviewed would not be considered “aligned” by GEOC. Any courses seeking additional changes would need to submit CARs and would be subject to full GEOC review. Moreover, all courses would still be eligible for alignment.

J. Vokoun motioned that GEOC approve an expedited review process for hyphenated courses identified by the Office of the Registrar, with the understanding that these courses would still be subject to later alignment. K. Tonry seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. New Course Review Procedure

- M. Wagner explained some changes that were being made to the course review process based on consultation with the previous Chair.
 - It was felt that the previous system requiring full GEOC review of all courses was not working as intended. As such, we will implement a triage system whereby the GEOC Chair will review new CARs for any glaring issues and determine if they should be sent back to proposers or if they are ready for referral to subcommittees.
 - One member also suggested that each subcommittee should account for all courses in their docket when they write reports, even ones about which no decision has been made. The purpose is to ensure that we are keeping track of all courses currently under review.
- a. Subcommittee Membership
- It was noted that Mark Kohan is no longer at the university and should be removed as a subcommittee member for CA4.
 - K. McDermott asked Co-Chairs to please populate their subcommittees appropriately and keep her updated on membership. It is recommended that each subcommittee have 2-3 members in addition to the Co-Chairs.

C. EL Course Announcements and Discussion

- a. Advising for EL
- We will be reaching out to advisors regarding the EL requirement.
- b. Waivers for EL
- If students change catalog year, some schools and colleges may be inclined to waive the EL requirement or approve substitutions.
- c. Shortages in EL (and CA1?)
- We will be requesting data to check our enrollment for both EL and CA1, since there is some concern about shortages in both areas.
 - One member felt there was an over-reaction over the summer by advisors trying to get every freshman into an EL course. There are plenty of 3000-level courses that students can take later on. We do not necessarily need more courses, just maybe more seats in the existing courses. There need to be some higher-level discussions about resources.

- One member questioned if the shortage in CA1 is in the context of the University or specifically in CLAS. If it is the latter, it is not the purview of this committee to devote resources to a problem of CLAS's own making, given that they require students to take extra CA1 courses in multiple areas.
- One member noted that the School of Fine Arts was only approving 1000-level courses for Gen Eds. In hindsight, they wish they had approved more upper-level Gen Ed courses, but they are reluctant to add courses now considering that big changes are potentially coming to the curriculum. This is a point to bring up to the Delta2GE. There are still good reasons to approve new courses now because there will be some overlap and there are still current needs before the new system goes into effect.
- As an FYI, the CLAS C&C has invited the EL Co-chairs to come talk about how they approve courses because there was some confusion and angst last year about the criteria used.

D. Course Overlap

- M. Wagner explained the information from the Senate C&C report. According to the report: "The CLAS C&C created a subcommittee on course overlap which investigated the growing number of courses (especially given the new EL requirement) that include overlap between courses, sometimes across schools and colleges. The subcommittee recommended the following:
 1. Add credit restrictions language when departments are seeking approval of courses that have significant content overlap with any other course on campus
 2. Modify the Course Action Request (CAR) form to require that faculty who are proposing new courses (a) provide a list of other similar courses (if any) across all schools, (b) confirm that they have had conversations with the departments housing such courses, (c) describe how they intend to address the content overlap, and (d) state whether the departments consulted approve the creation of the course
 3. CC&C Chairs of all schools and/or the departmental representatives of all schools should have access to the course proposals being brought forth across all schools, so that there is greater awareness across schools (and not just within CLAS) of what course overlap might exist."

E. Provost's Competition Announcement – Environmental Literacy and CA1

- The competition announcement was presented to the committee with a suggestion that the call focus on the presumed shortage areas of EL and CA1.
- One member repeated his previous concerns that EL and CA1 are not actually problem areas university-wide. There was reluctance to see this body be responsible for allocating resources to the problem of a particular college.
- Members asked about generating a report to see who is really affected by this supposed problem. A conversation with Mansour Ndiaye may also be in order.
- One member questioned if there was really a reason that we need a focus. Is this fair to the other content areas not highlighted? It was noted that this is just to encourage faculty in certain areas but that competition reviewers always make awards based on the strength of the proposal, not the focus area.
- In past competitions, the focus has also been on class size or the idea of integrative learning rather than specific content areas.

- One member suggested focusing more on the areas where Delta2GE is heading. M. Wagner asked members to think about ideas and email them so we can present a new draft. She asked that members send ideas by Wednesday of next week.
- F. Course Alignment: ART & ARTH, ARE, ENGL, GSCI, HIST, LING, MISI, MUSI, NURS, **PHAR/PHRX**, PHYS, PP, PVS, WGSS
- Pharmacy will defer alignment to next year because of their accreditation process.
- G. Delta2GE Involvement – Looking for volunteers
- Tom Long and M. Wagner are the Co-chairs of Delta2GE. The group is limited in the number of voting members it can have by the University Senate, but they are considering several working subcommittees.
 - One member felt it was important to make sure that no school or college has more say than any other in the Gen Ed revision process.
- H. W Course Faculty Drift
- There is wide-spread abuse of the policy on who can/should teach W courses, particularly with regards to graduate students.
 - K. McDermott will run data to find out who is really teaching W courses.
- I. Dual Degree credit change
- The New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) has agreed to UConn’s proposal to require only 18 extra credits instead of 30 for a dual degree.
 - There was discussion of the difference between dual degrees versus double majors across colleges. This change from 30 to 18 credits more or less negates current discussions on allowing double majors across colleges.
- J. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed
- Discussions have been on the backburner to consider ways in which we might facilitate awarding CA4-Int credit to students studying abroad, including maybe awarding CA4-Int credit for the experience of going abroad itself.
 - Using the UNIV/INTD designations is an idea, but one problem is that this would incur additional tuition.
 - In general, the number of students taking whole semesters abroad is going down, but short courses are on the rise.
 - MISI tried to propose a course to award CA4-Int credit to students who had been stationed abroad in the past, but the course was ultimately rejected, largely because it involved a kind of hind-sight assessment of learning outcomes.
 - Coding the experience as some type of internship may also be a possibility to look into.
- K. End of Year Letter
- M. Wagner noted that we will revive the policy of recognizing GEOC service in an end-of-year letter.

L. Call-ins versus Skype

- Skype may be available if members prefer this to calling in.

M. Senate vote on DeltaGE Report

- One member expressed that many felt the vote was forced through the Senate and some Senators did not really know what they were voting on. He wanted to be sure that Delta2GE took the concerns over this very seriously. M. Wagner promised to convey these concerns.

5. Subcommittee Reports – No actions taken

A. CA2 Report

- ANTH 1000/W Other People's Worlds [CA2, CA4, W] (#11801) [Revise title and description]
- DMD 2620 Human Development, Digital Media, and Technology [CA2, CA4] (#9363) [New CA2, CA4]
- EDCI 1100 If You Love It, Teach It [CA2] (#5021) [New CA2]
- GEOG 2320 Climate Change: Current Geographic Issues [CA2, E] (#8819) [Add E]
- POLS 3603WQ Congressional Apportionment and Redistricting [CA2, Q, W] (#11843) [New CA2, Q, W course]

B. CA3 Report

- GSCI 2800E Our Evolving Atmosphere [CA3, E] (#6867) [New CA3, E]
- KINS 2227 Exercise Prescription [CA3] (#12163) [Revise prereqs; add CA3]
- MARN 3000 Hydrosphere and Global Climate [CA3, E] (#11700) [Revise title, description, and prereqs; Add CA3 and E]

C. CA4 Report

- ANTH 1000/W Other People's Worlds [CA2, CA4, W] (#11801) [Revise title and description]
- 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]
- GEOG 2200 Introduction to Human Geography [CA2, CA4-Int] (#10094) [Add CA2 and CA4-Int]

D. Q Report

- Q Assessment Updates
- POLS 2073Q Advanced Quantitative Methods in Political Science [Q] (#10857) [New Q]
- POLS 3603WQ Congressional Apportionment and Redistricting [CA2, Q, W] (#11843) [New CA2, Q, W course]

E. W Report (see 'W Report_4-29-19')

- ANTH 1000/W Other People's Worlds [CA2, CA4, W] (#11801) [Revise title and description]
- EEB 2244/W General Ecology [W, E] (#10114) [Add E; revise prereqs]
- KINS 3530/W Aerobic and Resistance Training for Performance [W] (#11323) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
- KINS 3545W Resistance Training for Health and Performance [W] (#11322) [New W, no non-W]
- KINS 4205W Exercise Science Capstone [W] (#11327) [Revise title and credits; Change non-W to a W]

- f. KINS 4510/W Advanced Topics in Health and Sport Performance [W] (#11325) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
- g. LAND 3230W Environmental Planning and Landscape Design [W, E] (#9381) [Add E, revise title and description]
- h. MARN 2801W Marine Sciences and Society [W, E] (#11738) [Revise description; add E]
- i. MATH 2705W Technical Writing in Mathematics [W] (#11517) [New W]
- j. MCB 3844W Microbes and the Media [W] (#7029) [New W]
- k. POLS 3603WQ Congressional Apportionment and Redistricting [CA2, Q, W] (#11843) [New CA2, Q, W course]

F. E Report

- a. AH 3175 Environmental Health [EL] (#12308) [Add EL]
- b. ANTH 1010 Global Climate Change and Human Societies [CA2, CA4-INT, E] (#8737) [Add E]
- c. ECON 1107 Honors Core: Economics, Nature, and the Environment [CA2, E] (#11128) [Add E; revise enrollment restrictions]
- d. EEB 2244/W General Ecology [W, E] (#10114) [Add E; revise prereqs]
- e. GEOG 2320 Climate Change: Current Geographic Issues [CA2, E] (#8819) [Add E]
- f. GSCI 1000E The Human Epoch: Living in the Anthropocene [CA3, EL] (#12164) [New CA3, EL]
- g. GSCI 1055 Geoscience and the American Landscape [CA3, E] (#9975) [Add E; remove “formerly offered”]
- h. GSCI 2800E Our Evolving Atmosphere [CA3, E] (#6867) [New CA3, E]
- i. LAND 3230W Environmental Planning and Landscape Design [W, E] (#9381) [Add E, revise title and description]
- j. MARN 2801W Marine Sciences and Society [W, E] (#11738) [Revise description; add E]
- k. MARN 3000 Hydrosphere and Global Climate [CA3, E] (#11700) [Revise title, description, and prereqs; Add CA3 and E]

6. Alignment – No actions taken

- A. POLS 1602/W (CA2 and W Review Pending receipt of new syllabi. Hold until 2019-20?)

7. Old Business – No actions taken

- 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

8. Course Action Requests in the Queue

Requests for Full-Committee Review

- A. ECON 2312W Empirical Methods in Economics II [W] (#11981) [Drop W version]

- No discussion.

K. Tonry motioned to approve the course for deletion. G. Gibson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Requests on Hold

- 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.

Requests Awaiting Chair Review

- A. ANTH 2600 Applied Research in Archaeobotany [CA3] (#12283) [New CA3-Lab]
- B. ARTH/AFRA Race, Gender, and the Power of Looking [CA1, CA4] (#11079) [New CA1, CA4]
- C. ECE 4900W Communicating Engineering Solutions in a Societal Context [W] (#9644) [New W]
- D. EDLR 2010 Leadership Theory and Practice in Sport Management [CA2] (#11518) [New CA2]
- E. ENGL 2020W Technical Writing and Design [W] (#11357) [New W]
- F. ENGL 2730W Travel Writing [CA1, W] (#11358) [New CA1, W]
- G. ENGL 4302W Advanced Study: Literature of Australia, Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand [W] (#11397) [Revise title and description]
- H. ENGL/CLCS 2609 Fascism and its Opponents [CA1] (#11417) [New CA1]
- I. HEJS/CAMS/HIST 3218/W Palestine Under the Greeks and Romans [W] (#12284) [Number change, add W, revise pre-reqs]
- J. ILCS 3248W The Italian Novella [CA1, CA4, W] (#11941) [New CA1, CA4-Int, W]

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm

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