



GEOC Meeting Minutes

October 31, 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**, Kun Chen, **Robert Day, Kelly Dennis, George Gibson,** Beth Ginsberg, Miguel Gomes, Jason Irizarry, Mary Ellen Junda, **Neal Krishna (student rep),** Suman Majumdar, Olivier Morand, **Tom Scheinfeldt,** Kathleen Tonry, **Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Jason Vokoun**

Meeting was called to order at 2:02pm.

1. Preliminaries

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

2. Welcome and Regrets

A. **Regrets:** Miguel Gomes

3. Past and Future

A. Minutes of October 3, 2019 meeting (see 'Minutes_10-3-19')

K. Dennis motioned to approve. L. Blansett seconded. The minutes were accepted as submitted with one abstention.

B. Fall Meeting Schedule:
Mon, Nov. 11 – 10:00am-11:30am
Thurs, Dec. 5 – 2:00pm-3:30pm

4. Chair's Report

A. Updates:

- We followed up with CHEM on the prereqs to their courses about which one member had concerns. They confirmed that MATH is no longer required.
- We followed up with the proposer of SOCI 2310 about concerns that the committee had over semi-historical versus contemporaneous materials in the course. We received back a full explanation that allayed any fears.
- We reported at the last meeting that we had waived the alignment of SOCI 1602W with the assumption that the department no longer planned to offer the course in its W format, but we have since discovered that it is being offered as a W at both Hartford and Avery Point this semester.

B. Delta2GE Update

- The committee used the last meeting to discuss rules they all want to abide by before they break out into subcommittees. First, they do not want to add additional credit requirements. Second,

the Gen Ed requirements should be portable, although what this means exactly has not been fully decided on yet.

- There are two new student members on the committee who they will be leaning on for feedback from the student perspective.
- There was agreement that we should not roll out the Gen Eds until they are ready to be rolled out.
- One member asked if there were also discussions of the when schools and colleges layer extra Gen Eds on top of the university requirements. Shouldn't the university Gen Eds be sufficient for the entire institution? The issue is that this can create complications for some students, e.g. a student who adds a double major or changes colleges and who now has to graduate late because of extra requirements. Delta2GenEd did not discuss this, but M. Wagner asked the member to send her and Tom Long that comment in an email so that they can officially discuss it. The committee meets tomorrow.
- Students in CLAS do not view the university and the CLAS Gen Eds separately; they are the same in students' eyes. Members discussed whether this was perhaps a problem of either how the requirements are being presented during advising or a problem of naming (Gen Ed requirements versus CLAS requirements)? Maybe the CLAS requirements should be called such and not called Gen Ed requirements.

C. Provost's Competition – Deadline is November 8

D. FYW Course Review

- Two FYW courses are up for revision and there was some question as to whether GEOC should review them. This was discussed at Senate C&C and SEC. FYW also sent out a survey and about 90%+ of the universities they surveyed reported that FYW was part of Gen Ed. It was decided that GEOC should review the courses. The recommendation was that W, Info Lit, and whole GEOC should look at the courses.
- The FYW courses are co-curricular. From the student-facing side they are 4-credit courses, but in practice they are a 3+1 credits, a lecture with a writing workshop.
- There was a question about transferring in FYW courses, since more courses do not appear to be accepted. It was noted that this had to do with a state rule that requires 6 credits of FYW. UConn made the case years ago that our 4-credit course is really two 3-credit courses mashed together, but this makes it difficult for any transfer courses to satisfy the FYW requirement.

E. GEOC Course Review Backlog

- We got an email from SEC about the backlog of courses in GEOC's docket. We responded with an email explaining the backlog and actions we have taken to get the courses moving again.
- K. McDermott will flag courses that have been in the docket the longest the next time she sends subcommittees their dockets.

F. Meeting on Information Literacy

- L. Blansett, M. Wagner, T. Scheinfeld, B. Brueggemann, and K. McDermott met today to discuss Information Literacy. T. Scheinfeld (Co-Chair) will reconvene the committee and move forward with a revision of the criteria, including work with digital literacy.
- The first order of business is to put together a framework and then make practical suggestions for its implementations within departments.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

- A. CA1 Docket (see 'CA1 Report_10-31-19')
- HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
 - POLS 2023/W Political Theory in Film [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12847) [New course]
- K. Dennis explained the CA1 report. The first course still met CA1 criteria. The second course, POLS 2023/W, was an excellent example of not only CA1, but of the use of film in a class.

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of HIST 1600W and POLS 2023/W).

- B. CA2 Docket
- ECON 1101 Economics through Film [CA2] (#13157) [New Course]
 - EDLR 2010 Leadership Theory and Practice in Sport Management [CA2] (#11518) [New CA2]
- C. CA3 Docket
- ANTH 2600 Applied Research in Archaeobotany [CA3] (#12283) [New CA3-Lab]
 - EEB 2250 Introduction to Plant Physiology [CA3] (#13257) [Add CA3, Revise Description]
 - GSCI 1000E The Human Epoch: Living in the Anthropocene [CA3, EL] (#12164) [New CA3, EL]
 - 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]
 - MARN/MAST 1001 The Sea Around Us [CA3, EL] (#13277) [Add E/CA3, Revise Description]
- One of the CA3 Co-Chairs brought a philosophical question to the committee. He noted that he was on GEOC years ago when many of the criteria were written. He felt that too many courses now are seeking designations without having a broad enough base of exploration. It was his feeling that not every course that necessarily uses the scientific method needs to be CA3. The KINS 2227 course, for example, does not appear to contain a "broad, coherent body of knowledge." The department was encouraged to take the step of making it CA3 by Peter Diplock, so he does not want to fight everyone on this, but the idea behind the course is at odds with his understanding of what Gen Ed is.
 - The committee felt that this was an important philosophical question.
 - The committee wrestled with the idea of how broad the idea of "broad" is. In particular, one might define "broad" as "having implications for other disciplines," but it was unclear exactly where this line might be.
 - Would it make sense to reach out to the proposer to ask her about the breadth of the course? Yes, we can do this. M. Wagner will reach out to the proposer and CC G. Gibson.

**The CA3 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of ANTH 2600, GSCI 1000E, GSCI 2800E, MARN 3000).
Approved.**

D. CA4 Report

- a. ARTH/AFRA 2222 Race, Gender, and the Power of Looking [CA1, CA4] (#11079) [New CA1, CA4]
- b. EDLR 2001 Contemporary Social Issues in Sport [CA4] (N/A) [Seeking Intensive Session Offering]
- c. HEJS 2200 Israel: History and Society [CA1, CA4] (#12865) [New CA1, CA4-Int]
- d. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
- e. HIST 3570 American Indian History [CA4] (#13443) [Revise Number]
- f. ILCS 3248W The Italian Novella [CA1, CA4, W] (#11941) [New CA1, CA4-Int, W]
- a. POLS 2023/W Political Theory in Film [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12847) [New course]

E. W Report (see 'W Report_10-31-19')

- a. CSE 4939W Computer Science and Engineering Design Project I [W] (#12023) [Revise Prereqs]
- b. ECE 4900W Communicating Engineering Solutions in a Societal Context [W] (#9644) [New W]
- c. ENGL 2020W Technical Writing and Design [W] (#11357) [New W]
- d. HEJS/CAMS/HIST 3218/W Palestine Under the Greeks and Romans [W] (#12284) [Number change, add W, revise pre-reqs]
- e. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
- f. ILCS 3248W The Italian Novella [CA1, CA4, W] (#11941) [New CA1, CA4-Int, W]
- g. KINS 4205W Exercise Science Capstone [W] (#11327) [Revise title and credits; Change non-W to a W]
- h. KINS 4510/W Advanced Topics in Health and Sport Performance [W] (#11325) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
- 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. MATH 2705W Technical Writing in Mathematics [W] (#11517) [New W]
- l. MCB 3844W Microbes and the Media [W] (#7029) [New W]
- m. MCB 3894W Symbiosis: The Science of Living Together [W] (#12505) [New W]
- n. PHIL 2221/W Ancient Greek Philosophy [W] (#12705) [Revise Title and Description]
- o. PHIL 2222/W Early Modern European Philosophy [W] (#12704) [Revise Title]
- p. PHIL 3216/W Environmental Ethics [SL, W] (#12805) [Add E, revise description, drop Juniors or higher restriction]
- q. POLS 2023/W Political Theory in Film [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12847) [New course]
- a. POLS 3603WQ Congressional Apportionment and Redistricting [CA2, Q, W] (#11843) [New CA2, Q, W course]

The W Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of LAND 3230W, PHIL 2221W, PHIL 2222W, PHIL 3216W, MCB 3849W, MATH 2705W).

- F. E Report (see 'E Report_10-31-19')
- a. GSCI 1055 Geoscience and the American Landscape [CA3, E] (#9975) [Add E; remove "formerly offered"]
 - b. HIST/AMST 3542 New England Environmental History [EL] (#12864) [Add E]
 - c. MARN/MAST 1001 The Sea Around Us [CA3, EL] (#13277) [Add E/CA3, Revise Description]
 - d. NRE 3145 Meteorology [E] (#9697) [Revise prereqs, add E]
 - e. NRE 3146 Climatology [E] (#9812) [Add E]
 - f. PHIL 3216/W Environmental Ethics [SL, W] (#12805) [Add E, revise description, drop Juniors or higher restriction]
- No discussion.

The E Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of HIST/AMST 3542, MARN/MAST 1001, PHIL 3216/W).

- G. Second Language Report (see 'SL Report_10-31-19')
- a. GERM 1131 Elementary German I [SL] (#13156) [Revise Number and Description of Hyphenated]
 - b. GERM 1132 Elementary German II [SL] (#13178) [Revise Number and Description of Hyphenated]
- No discussion.

The SL Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of GERM 1131 and GERM 1132).

6. Q Assessment Updates – Pending Updates

- The report will be sent out the week before Thanksgiving for discussion at our last GEOC meeting.
- One member felt that the Q requirements were wildly optimistic.
- One member felt that the university should have more math requirements.
- In general, there needs to be a broader discussion of whether or not the Q criteria need to be revised once we get the report.

7. Old Business

- A. Learning Outcomes for Second Language General Education courses – Under Consideration
- 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
 - c. W Course Instruction (aka "W Course Faculty Drift")
- C. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed

8. New Business

A. Discussion of Student Opinion Piece in the *Daily Campus*

- There was a discussion of schools with open curriculums. It was not immediately clear how schools that do this get around accreditation requirements.
- One member felt that opinion piece was very “alarmist/sensationalist” on purpose to make a point.
- The student member felt that the Gen Ed class he was taking right now was not at the level he would have expected it to be for what its purported intention is. Some of the courses need to be “taught more applicably.”
- One member felt that students want to skip past building the foundational understandings that they need.
- One member saw the article as being somewhat support of what we are doing in Delta2GenEd. That is, if the old system is not working, there is justification for putting something new in place.
- K. McDermott gave the committee some information about a conversation she had with another school. In looking at the kinds of resources and staffing that other schools devote to Gen Ed, she spoke to someone at the University of North Carolina about their new Gen Ed program. They have been piloting the program for three years now and just voted to make the change permanent. The program has a \$4 million budget and requires faculty to apply to be Gen Ed instructors. If accepted, faculty serve a three-year term, get a 1/3rd course reduction, and receive a bonus. The program is also administrated by a fulltime director.
- Maybe GEOC should not be talking to students directly but to advisors. We need to get away from language that suggests students need to “get Gen Ed courses out of the way.” In general, we need to get away from treating students as customers that always need to be appeased.
- The committee felt that Tom Long’s written response to the piece was enough for now.

9. Course Action Requests in the Queue

Suggested for Full-Committee Review

- A. TBD

Requests on Hold

- A. TBD

Requests Awaiting Chair Review

- A. PHAR 3087W Honors Thesis in Pharmacy [W] (#13865) [Adding PHRX cross-listing]