



General Education Oversight Committee

February 12, 2020, 10:30am-12:00pm in Rowe 420

Agenda

*Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:*

Manuela Wagner – Chair, (Karen McDermott – Admin), Fabrice Baudoin, Eric Schultz (Ex-Officio), Lisa Blansett, **Kun Chen, Robert Day**, Kelly Dennis, **George Gibson**, Beth Ginsberg, **Miguel Gomes**, Ali Gokirmak, Mary Ellen Junda, **Neal Krishna (student rep), Suman Majumdar**, Olivier Morand, **Michael Morrell, Tom Scheinfeldt, Kathleen Tonry, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Jason Vokoun**

1. Preliminaries

A. Call-ins: A new number was provided due to a scheduling conflict with the usual number.

2. Welcome and Regrets

3. Past and Future

A. Minutes of January 27, 2019 meeting (see 'Minutes_1-27-20.docx')

M. Morrell motioned to approve the minutes. K. Tonry seconded. The minutes were approved with one abstention.

B. Spring Meeting Schedule:

Monday, February 24 – 1:30pm-3:00pm

Wednesday, March 11 – 10:30am-12:00pm
(Spring Break)

Wednesday, April 1 – 10:30am-12:00pm

Monday, April 13 – 1:30pm-3:00pm

Monday, April 27 – 1:30pm-3:00pm

4. Chair's Report

A. Delta2GE Update

- One issue is the persistent push or desire to add more themes of inquiry. The group has heard two proposals, one on race and diversity, and one on a dialog requirement. There is also still some discontent that the international multiculturalism requirement has been taken out. There are many themes the group wants to include, but they are limited by their goal of not adding additional credits to the requirements.
- The Life-Transformative Education (LTE) committee is also working on some similar ideas.
- There was discussion of the distinctions between civility and dialog and what the proposal is actually suggesting. There was some concern about giving a platform to ideas that we truly consider unacceptable, e.g. fascism. It was also clarified that the pitch to add a "civility" requirement was suggested several years ago. The newest suggestion is to add "dialog," but there is still concern here.
- One member asked if Delta2GE can make an announcement about what the timeline for implementation is because faculty and staff do not know where things stand and departments

are unsure if they should move forward on Gen Ed initiatives. M. Wagner will speak with Veronica Makowski from SEC regarding an announcement, and a statement will be drafted. The bottom line is that implementation of new requirements is still years away, so departments should proceed as normal.

- The Info Lit subcommittee is struggling with understanding their purpose. It seems as though there is no Info Lit requirement, so there is no way to enforce Info Lit guidelines. The committee is questioning what the purpose of putting the work in is if Info Lit will basically be relegated to a website.

B. Life-Transformative Education Task Force (LTE)

- This task force was convened at the behest of the President Katsouleas. There was debate about whether this meant the initiatives of the task force would be more or less likely to receive adequate funding.

C. Senate Executive Committee

- M. Wagner and Tom Long originally thought that they needed to have a report to the Budget Committee by February, but that deadline has been extended and they will present a report to the Senate by April.
- One member asked whether this is an actual proposal or a progress report. At this point it is a progress report.
- The task force will likely need to have town hall meetings to get feedback on a larger scale, but they currently do not have anything concrete enough to vote on. The committees are working on refinements and fixing issues or impediments. Once they complete that work, then they can look at resources.
- One member expressed concern about whether there will actually be adequate resources to enact this initiative. They reiterated a concern from the last meeting, that we have gotten two dichotomous directives from the President: double our research and transform life in the classroom. Faculty cannot reasonably do both.

D. Alignment – Due Date for Reports is March 11 Meeting

- Subcommittees please note the deadline.

E. CA4, SL, and W subcommittee members needed

- Let us know if you have any suggestions for new subcommittee members.

F. Gen Ed Goals and Syllabi

- M. Wagner noted that she would like to see Gen Ed goals listed in the syllabi of Gen Ed courses. This is something we can discuss in a future meeting.

G. Member Terms Ending after Spring 2020:

- a. Lisa Blansett (W) – Renewing for a 2nd Term
- b. Kun Chen (Q) – Eligible for second term
- c. Miguel Gomes (CA1) – Rotating off
- d. Mary Ellen Junda (CA4) – Rotating off
- e. Michael Morrell (CA2) – Rotating off

- f. Kathleen Tonry – Eligible for second term
 - g. Jason Vokoun – Renewing for a 2nd Term
- GEOC is losing both CA4 co-chairs, so please nominate your colleagues (or better yet, your enemies) for a GEOC co-chairship.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

- a. ECON 2103 Honors Core: Deep Roots of Modern Societies [CA1] (#14271) [Add CA1]
 - b. MUSI 1115 Jazz Ensembles [CA1] (#12406) [Revise prereqs, description, add CA1]
- M. Gomes presented the CA1 report.
 - The subcommittee was waiting for a new syllabus for the ECON course. They received it yesterday, but they have not had a chance to review it yet, so that class is still pending.
 - The subcommittee is having “existential problems” about the MUSI 1115. The course fulfills CA1 criteria on a fundamental level, but there is a question about whether or not the required audition is an impediment to approving the course as a Gen Ed since it potentially violates the principle of accessibility.
 - One member asked whether functionally students from any major could take the course, or if it was really meant for MUSI students. What is the course’s purpose? If MUSI is looking for high quality musicians for a jazz ensemble, then the course probably cannot be Gen Ed.

S. Majumdar motioned to table consideration of MUSI 1115 pending further research and consultation with the department. B. Day seconded. The motion to table was approved unanimously.

B. CA2 Docket

- a. ARE 1150 Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics [CA2] (#321) [Revise title and description]
 - b. HDFS 2142 Exploring Conservation and Sustainability with Preschoolers [CA2, EL] (#14311) [New]
- M. Morrell presented the CA2 report.
 - ARE 1150 is still pending. The subcommittee is checking to see if consultation with ECON occurred.
 - The subcommittee did not feel as though the HDFS course adequately addressed CA2 criteria, so they are declining it.
 - One subcommittee co-chair felt that there was a general misunderstanding about the type of ethical issues to which the CA2 criteria refer.

The CA2 Report was approved as submitted unanimously (declined for HDFS 2142; pending ARE 1150).

C. CA3 Docket

- a. ANSC 1669 Human Reproductive Biology and Society [CA3] (#13563) [New course]
- G. Gibson presented the CA3 report.
 - There was no additional discussion.

The CA3 Report was approved as submitted unanimously (approval of ANSC 1669).

D. CA4 Report

- a. ENGL/AAAS/JAPN 2305 Modern Japanese Literature [CA1, CA4] (#12026) [New course]
 - M. Wagner presented the CA4 report on behalf of the CA4 subcommittee.
 - There was no additional discussion.

The CA4 Report was approved as submitted unanimously (approval of ENGL/AAAS/JAPN 2305).

E. Q Report

- a. (See below.)

F. W Report

- a. CE 4900W Civil Engineering Projects I [W] (#14577) [Revise prereqs]
 - b. ENGL 2640/W Studies in Film [CA1, W] (#13582) [New course]
 - c. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
 - d. KINS 3545W Resistance Training for Health and Performance [W] (#11322) [New W]
 - e. KINS 4510/W Advanced Topics in Health and Sport Performance [W] (#11325) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
 - f. PHAR 3087W Honors Thesis in Pharmacy [W] (#13865) [Adding PHRX cross-listing]
 - g. POLS 2023/W Political Theory in Film [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12847) [New course]
- K. Tonry presented the W Report on behalf of L. Blansett and B. Ginsberg, who could not attend.
 - The report gave notice of discussions with Peter Diplock of CETL about the possibility of building a training program for graduate students in teaching W courses. GEOC members expressed concern about paying for this grad student time and requiring this commitment. One member noted that they would need to talk to Kent Holsinger and the Grad Student Union about this idea.
 - On a related note, M. Wagner conveyed that the Registrar's Office wanted to know about enforcing the 19 student enrollment cap in W courses. Whose purview is it to hold this line? One member noted that this has become an issue in Stamford. Another member noted that we should also look at the 50% enrollment restriction for majors since this is also being abused.
 - There was further discussion of which parts of the proposed training would in fact be union issues.

The W Report was approved as submitted unanimously (approval of ENGL 2640W).

G. EL Report

- a. HDFS 2142 Exploring Conservation and Sustainability with Preschoolers [CA2, EL] (#14311) [New]

H. Second Language Report

6. Q Assessment (Report)

- K. Chen gave a brief overview of the report by Eric Loken, and then explained the Q subcommittee's discussion of the report.

- It was noted that W courses have low enrollment caps because of the level of focused attention that is needed per student. There is almost a similar need in Q courses, partially due to “math anxiety.”
- There was a suggestion to GEOC to support an increase in Q Center resources to help combat some of these issues. It was noted that the Q center does not offer as many resources as faculty seem to think it does.
- The report suggested that it is time to revise the Q criteria in light of the rise of big data and artificial intelligence.
- PHYS, CHEM, MATH, STAT courses are the purview of the Q Center. At the regional campuses the need for resources is even more dire.
- One member felt that talking to a counselor was more appropriate to deal with math anxiety than sending students to the Q Center. The Academic Achievement Center is also a potential resource.
- GEOC will reserve time next meeting to discuss the report further.

7. Alignment Reports

8. 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

D. Gen Ed Requirements for Students with International Degrees

9. New Business#

A. Education Abroad Courses – “International Study” versus “Foreign Study”

B. Information Literacy (Report expected in March)

C. Request to Post Courses that were Declined for EL on the Website

- The committee was disinclined to post the list of rejected courses on the website.
- M. Wagner and K. McDermott will draft a statement for the website about who to contact if students are unsure if their course fulfills the Q requirement, and GEOC can review the statement.

10. Course Action Requests in the Queue

Suggested for Full-Committee Review

A. N/A

Requests on Hold

A. N/A

Requests Awaiting Chair Review

- A. AAAS 1000 Pathways to Asian American Studies [CA1, CA4] (#14904) [New Course]
- B. AAAS 1001 Pathways to Asian Studies [CA1, CA4-Int] (#14905) [New Course]
- C. ANTH/HRTS 3320W Propaganda, Disinformation, and Hate Speech [CA2, W] (#14977) [New Course]
- D. CHIN 3230 Language & Identity in Greater China [CA1, CA4-Int] (#13986) [Add CA1]
- E. EEB 2222 Plants in a Changing World [CA3, EL] (#14496) [Add EL]
- F. EEB 3205 Current Issues in Environmental Science [CA3, EL] (#14777) [Add Discussion]
- G. EPSY 1460 Critical and Creative Thinking in the Movies [CA2] (#12544) [New Course]
- H. FREN 3261 From the Holy Grail to the Revolution: Introduction to Literature [CA1] (#15003) [New nonW Course]
- I. FREN 3261W From the Holy Grail to the Revolution: Introduction to Literature [CA1, W] (#14780) [Drop Course]
- J. FREN 3262 From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to Literature [CA1] (#15002) [New nonW Course]
- K. FREN 3262W From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to Literature [CA1, W] (#14781) [Drop Course]
- L. GEOG/URBN 3200 Urban Geography [W] (#14902) [Add W]
- M. MAST 2300 Marine Environmental Policy [EL] (#14412) [New Course]
- N. PNB 3120W Public Communication of Physiology and Neurobiology [W] (#13722) [Revise description, title, and credits]
- O. POLS 2XXX Religion and Politics in America [CA4, W] (#14272) [New Course]