



## General Education Oversight Committee

February 24, 2020, 1:30pm-3:00pm 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: Dial 1-866-857-0502, passcode: 2023183#

2. **Welcome and Regrets:** G. Gibson, B. Ginsberg

#### 3. Past and Future

A. Minutes of February 12, 2019 meeting (see 'Minutes\_2-12-20.docx')

**S. Majumdar motioned to approve the minutes. K. Dennis seconded. The minutes were approved with one abstention.**

B. Spring Meeting Schedule:

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. Continued Q Assessment Report Discussion (*Guest: Amit Savkar*)

- M. Wagner and S. Mujumdar recapped GEOC's discussion of the Q Report at the last meeting.
- It was reported that E. Schultz from the Senate C&C agreed that the Q criteria need to be updated and should appear in the syllabi for Q courses.
- A. Savkar noted that many students do not understand the need for Q content in non-Math courses like CHEM or PHYS. He felt that this part of where the anxiety comes into the picture.
- He noted students' inadequate preparation and how we are trying to address this at UConn. The Math department made 116 videos that cover basic math concepts, and these are available on the department's website.
- Since A. Savkar has taken over the direction of the Q Center he has instituted certain changes, such as using text books. He started in the Q Center by just observing what was happening. The current model is peer-to-peer tutoring, not mentoring or counseling.
- The Q Center looked at how many unique visitors were coming. Many were unique, and 444 were first generation, so the takeaway is that the word about resources is getting out. Conversely, only about 60% have come back again, and they are not sure why.

- Counseling in Q courses needs to be in the department for discipline-specific courses, not at the Q Center.
- It was noted that the STAT department has started their own tutoring service because Q Center does not advertise support for courses over 1000-level. Q Center staff can potentially help with some 2000-level courses if the tutors are not busy with students needing 1000-level help, but this is not advertised.
- For most upper-level Q courses, the deficiency is in students' basic algebra skills.
- One member noted that he felt the anxiety was bigger than math, that it was a more general "academic anxiety." Anxiety should be covered in FYE courses.
- It was suggested that drop-in services are on their way out in favor of scheduled services. One member noted that W Center is actually moving toward the drop-in model by providing "flash tutoring." It was argued that this is still somewhat scheduled.
- One member questioned the pedagogical interpretation that the Q Center is not for discipline-specific courses like CHEM, PHYS etc. This is very similar to what happens in writing. Tutors do not help the student with content of the paper, but with the mechanics.
- One member noted that the problem is many instructors are adjuncts or grad students whose contracts will not be renewed if their SETs are not good enough, so they do not push students as hard as they should be. There is pressure to pass as many students as possible and the result is that many students are moving on unprepared.
- There was concern that we would end up throwing resources toward major-related issues versus actual Q proficiency.
- How do we proceed from here based on the recommendations? Do we have any questions for Amit? Send M. Wagner any questions or comments, and we will pick up this discussion again next meeting.

#### **5. Discussion of MUSI 1115 and MUSI 1120 (Guest: Earl MacDonald)**

- E. MacDonald was on hand to respond to concerns about the course's required audition.
- E. MacDonald noted that maybe he should have called it a "placement audition." He said that looks at this as "responsible advising" and compared the situation to a student whose first language is not English but who wants to take an advanced level literature course. Just as one might advise that student not to take the course just yet, he noted that he advises students not to take this course if their skills are not up to par.
- He noted that about 90% of students who audition get placed into an ensemble.
- In response to a question, E. MacDonald noted that as many as 40% of students in the class are non-FA students. He noted that this was one of the motivations behind making it a Gen Ed course. There is practical concern among students about majoring in the arts, and given the demands on their time, many such students do not pursue any arts-related activities during their college careers. E. MacDonald noted that many students want to play in an ensemble, but have little free time to do so. The goal behind this course was to level the playing field so that students who wanted to participate in some form of music could have some incentive to be able to take a class like this.

- One GEOC member made the argument that the placement exam for MATH and STAT courses functions in much the same way that the audition would. Students cannot just sign up for any MATH or STAT course. They need to achieve the required placement test score. The audition in this case functions in the same way a placement test score would.
- One member asked if the department would ever reserve seats in order to stack the course with MUSI majors. E. MacDonald noted that MUSI has never been in a situation where that was necessary. They need students.
- In response to two other questions from a GEOC member, E. MacDonald noted that, yes, the focus of the course does change each year; and yes, students can re-audition again if they do not get placed the first time. He indicated that he just had a couple students re-audition and make it into the class the second time.
- One GEOC member expressed that the course audition does not violate the spirit of Gen Ed, that it is akin to a math placement exam.
- One member expressed concern about students who did not have access to music classes in high school and so would not have the opportunity to take the class. While this is a valid concern, it is not necessarily one that can be addressed. Another member noted that the same thing often happens with students who do not have certain language classes available to them in high school.

**K. Dennis motioned to approve MUSI 1120 and MUSI 1115. M. Morrell seconded. The motion was approved with one abstention.**

- One member suggested that the catalog copy be revised to read “Placement audition required.” M. Wagner will reach out to E. MacDonald.

## 6. Chair’s Report

### A. Delta2GE Update

- The group met on Friday. We are getting in draft reports from all the subgroups that we can now share with larger community. GEOC should be receiving the revised reports for review fairly soon. They will likely go out to the C&Cs possibly next week.

### B. SEC Update

#### a. Timeframe for new Gen Eds

- M. Wagner brought the issue of getting a message about Gen Ed revision out to everyone to the group’s attention.
- One GEOC member asked if we have a decision about what GEOC’s role is in all this will be. GEOC will be able to give feedback, and they will get earlier updates on everything.

### C. Alignment – Due Date for Reports is March 11 Meeting

- Reports are due at the next meeting.

### D. CA1, CA4, and SL subcommittee members needed

### E. Member Terms Ending after Spring 2020:

- a. Lisa Blansett (W) – Renewing for a 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

## 7. Subcommittee Dockets

- A. CA1 Docket (See 'CA1 Report\_2-24-20')
  - 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. CHIN 3230 Language & Identity in Greater China [CA1, CA4-Int] (#13986) [Add CA1]
  - d. ECON 2103 Honors Core: Deep Roots of Modern Societies [CA1] (#14271) [Add CA1]
  - e. FREN 3261 From the Holy Grail to the Revolution: Introduction to Literature [CA1] (#15003) [New nonW Course]
  - f. FREN 3261W From the Holy Grail to the Revolution: Introduction to Literature [CA1, W] (#14780) [Drop Course]
  - g. FREN 3262 From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to Literature [CA1] (#15002) [New nonW Course]
  - h. FREN 3262W From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to Literature [CA1, W] (#14781) [Drop Course]
  - i. MUSI 1115 Jazz Ensembles [CA1] (#12406) [Revise prereqs, description, add CA1] – **TABLED**
    - K. Dennis presented the report.

**The CA1 Report was approved unanimously (Approval of AAAS 1000, AAAS 1001, CHIN 3230, ECON 2103, FREN 3261, and FREN 3262)**

- B. CA2 Docket
  - a. ARE 1150 Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics [CA2] (#321) [Revise title and description]
  - b. ANTH/HRTS 3320W Propaganda, Disinformation, and Hate Speech [CA2, W] (#14977) [New Course]
  - c. EPSY 1830 Critical and Creative Thinking in the Movies [CA2] (#12544) [New Course]
- C. CA3 Docket\*
  - a. EEB 2222 Plants in a Changing World [CA3, EL] (#14496) [Add EL]
  - b. EEB 3205E Current Issues in Environmental Science [CA3, EL] (#14777) [Revise credits and description]

\*Note: CA3 is waiving review of these courses since they have been reviewed within the last two years.  
**EEB 2222 and EEB 3205E have been cleared to proceed by the CA3 subcommittee.**

- D. CA4 Report
  - 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. CHIN 3230 Language & Identity in Greater China [CA1, CA4-Int] (#13986) [Add CA1]
  - d. POLS 2XXX Religion and Politics in America [CA4, W] (#14272) [New Course]
- E. Q Report
- a. N/A
- F. W Report
- a. ANTH/HRTS 3320W Propaganda, Disinformation, and Hate Speech [CA2, W] (#14977) [New Course]
  - b. CE 4900W Civil Engineering Projects I [W] (#14577) [Revise prereqs]
  - c. FREN 3261W From the Holy Grail to the Revolution: Introduction to Literature [CA1, W] (#14780) [Drop Course]
  - d. FREN 3262W From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to Literature [CA1, W] (#14781) [Drop Course]
  - e. GEOG/URBN 3200/W Urban Geography [W] (#14902) [Add W]
  - f. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
  - g. KINS 3545W Resistance Training for Health and Performance [W] (#11322) [New W]
  - h. KINS 4510/W Advanced Topics in Health and Sport Performance [W] (#11325) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
  - i. PHAR 3087W Honors Thesis in Pharmacy [W] (#13865) [Adding PHRX cross-listing]
  - j. PNB 3120W Public Communication of Physiology and Neurobiology [W] (#13722) [Revise description, title, and credits]
  - k. POLS 2023/W Political Theory in Film [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12847) [New course] GEOG/URBN 3200/W Urban Geography [W] (#14902) [Add W]
  - l. POLS 2XXXW Religion and Politics in America [CA4, W] (#14272) [New Course]
- G. EL Report
- a. EEB 2222 Plants in a Changing World [CA3, EL] (#14496) [Add EL]
  - b. EEB 3205E Current Issues in Environmental Science [CA3, EL] (#14777) [Revise credits and description]
  - c. HDFS 2142 Exploring Conservation and Sustainability with Preschoolers [CA2, EL] (#14311) [New]
  - d. MAST 2300 Marine Environmental Policy [EL] (#14412) [New Course]
    - J. Vokoun presented the report.

**The EL Report was approved as submitted unanimously (Approval of EEB 2222, EEB 3205E, HDFS 2142, MAST 2300)**

H. Second Language Report

## 8. Alignment Reports

A. CA1 Alignment Report

- B. CA2 Alignment Report (See 'CA2 Alignment Report\_2019-20')
  - a. PP 1001 - Aligns
  - b. LING 3610W - Aligns
  - c. WGSS 3253W – Aligns
  - M. Morrell presented the report.

**The CA2 Alignment Report was approved as submitted unanimously.**

- C. CA3 Alignment Report
- D. CA4 Alignment Report
- E. Q Alignment Report
- F. W Alignment Report

## **9. Old Business**

- A. Gen Ed Goals and Syllabi
- B. EL Statement and Enrollment
  - a. Proposed Statement for the Website: “Note: A major component of Environmental Literacy (EL), as it is defined by UConn General Education, is an exploration of human-environment interaction (see definition above). As such, please be aware that many courses that deal only with the natural world may not meet the criteria for EL approval. Please email karen.piantek@uconn.edu if you need to verify whether a course has been approved for EL.”
- C. Learning Outcomes for Second Language General Education courses – Under Consideration
- D. 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”)
- E. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed

## **10. New Business#**

- A. Gen Ed Requirements for Students with International Degrees
- B. Education Abroad Courses – “International Study” versus “Foreign Study”
- C. Information Literacy (Report expected in March)

## **11. Course Action Requests in the Queue**

Full-Committee Review

A. MUSI 1120 Jazz Combos [CA1] (#12424) [New course]\*

*\*Note: This course was returned to GEOC by the Senate C&C pending a decision on whether the audition requirement is too prohibitive to qualify the course for General Education.*

- See motion above in Item 5.

Requests on Hold

A. N/A

Requests Awaiting Chair Review

A. N/A

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott.**