



General Education Oversight Committee

April 27, 2020, 1:30am-12:00pm

in WebEx

Meeting Minutes

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. WebEx Meeting Platform – Members got settled on the new platform which was being used because of the availability of some features that BlackBoard Collaborate lacked.

2. Welcome and Regrets

- A. Guests: Brenda Brueggemann, Michele Back

3. Past and Future

- A. Minutes of April 13, 2020 meeting (see 'Minutes_4-13-20.docx')
 - A minor edit was made to a directive note in the minutes.

S. Majumdar motioned to approve the minutes. B. Ginsberg seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

- B. Fall Meeting Schedule: Please respond to forthcoming Doodle Poll

4. Chair's Report

- A. Delta2GE Update – Reporting and Feedback Timeline
 - M. Wagner reported that Jennifer Terni from LCL expressed that colleagues in her department and in others did not have time to give feedback due to an exceptionally busy semester. J. Terni asked that Delta2GE delay submitting their report to the Senate.
 - In response to this request and in consultation with the Senate Executive Committee, Delta2GE will submit a preliminary progress report after their meeting in May.
 - B. Ginsberg noted feedback and concerns she submitted were acknowledged and taken seriously by the Delta2GE co-chairs, and she expressed her thanks.
- B. Service Letters will go out over the Summer
 - These letters will go out soon after the end of the semester.
- C. Newly appointed GEOC members (starting Fall 2020):
 - a. Jennifer Terni (CA1)

- b. Morty Ortega (CA4)
- c. Oksan Bayulgen (CA4)
- d. Brenda Brueggemann (IL)
- e. Michele Back (SL)
 - These members will join as co-chairs in the fall.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

- A. CA1 Docket (see "CA1 Report_4-27-20")
 - a. ARTH/HRTS 3575 Human Rights and Visual Culture [CA1] (#8416) [Add CA1]
 - b. CHIN 3230W Language & Identity in Greater China [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#15631) [Add W version]
 - c. GERM 2400 The Environment in German Culture [CA1, EL] (#15590) [Add EL]
 - d. HEJS/HIST 3419 Jewish Response to the Holocaust [CA1, CA4-Int] (#15290) [New]
 - e. HIST/AAAS 2101 The Pacific in World History [CA1, CA4-Int] [(#14414) [New]
 - f. HIST/CAMS 2020 Pyramids, Pirates, and the Polis: The Ancient Mediterranean [CA1, CA4-Int] (#9976) [Add cross-listing]
 - M. Gomes gave his final subcommittee report as a GEOC CA1 co-chair.

The CA1 Report was approved as submitted (Approval of ARTH/HRTS 3575, CHIN 3230W, GERM 2400, HEJS/HIST 3419, HIST, AAAS 2101, HIST/CAMS 2020)

- B. CA2 Docket (see "CA2 Report_4-27-20")
 - a. ARE 1150 Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics [CA2] (#321) [Revise title and description]
 - b. SLHS 1150/W Introduction to Communication Disorders [CA2, CA4, W] (#15156) [Adding W version]

Newly Added:

- c. HRTS 2200 Introduction to Genocide Studies [CA2, CA4-Int] (#15891) [New]
 - d. SOCI 2701 Sustainable Societies [CA2, EL] (#) [Add CA2, EL]
 - e. SOCI 2705 Sociology of Food [CA2, EL] (#) [Add CA2, EL]
 - f. SOCI 2709W Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#) [Add CA2, EL]
- M. Morrell gave his final subcommittee report as a GEOC CA2 co-chair.
 - The committee was able to move one course. The other courses still need additional information.

The CA2 Report was approved as submitted (Approval of SLHS 1150/W)

C. CA3 Docket

- D. CA4 Report (see "CA4 Report_4-27-20")
 - a. CHIN 3230W Language & Identity in Greater China [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#15631) [Add W version]
 - b. HEJS/HIST 3419 Jewish Response to the Holocaust [CA1, CA4-Int] (#15290) [New]

- c. HIST/AAAS 2101 The Pacific in World History [CA1, CA4-Int] [(#14414) [New]
- d. HIST/CAMS 2020 Pyramids, Pirates, and the Polis: The Ancient Mediterranean [CA1, CA4-Int] (#9976) [Add cross-listing]
- e. HRTS 2200 Introduction to Genocide Studies [CA2, CA4-Int] (#15891) [New]

- M. Wagner presented the report on behalf of the CA4 subcommittee.

The CA4 Report was approved as submitted (Approval of CHIN 3230W, HEJS/HIST 3419, HIST/AAAS 2101, HIST/CAMS 2020, HRTS 2200)

E. Q Report

- a. COMM 3000Q Research Methods in Communication [Q] (#15811) [Revise number]

F. W Report (see "W Report_4-27-20")

- a. ANTH/HRTS 3320W Propaganda, Disinformation, and Hate Speech [CA2, W] (#14977) [New Course]
- b. FREN 3211 Contemporary France [CA1-e, CA4-Int, W] (#14782) [Making existing course a W]
- c. GEOG/URBN 3200/W Urban Geography [W] (#14902) [Add W]
- d. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
- e. KINS 3545W Resistance Training for Health and Performance [W] (#11322) [New W]
- f. KINS 4510/W Advanced Topics in Health and Sport Performance [W] (#11325) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
- g. PHAR 3087W Honors Thesis in Pharmacy [W] (#13865) [Adding PHRX cross-listing]
- h. SLHS 1150/W Introduction to Communication Disorders [CA2, CA4, W] (#15156) [Adding W version]

Newly Added:

- i. CHIN 3230W Language & Identity in Greater China [CA1, CA4-INT, W] (#15631) [Add W version]
- j. COMM 2310/W Media Literacy and Criticism [W] (#15847) [Revise number, prereqs; Add W version]
- k. COMM 3600/W New Communication Technologies [W] (#15852) [Revise prereqs; Add W version]
- l. COMM 4200/W Advanced Interpersonal Communication [W] (#15842) [Revise Prereqs]
- m. COMM 4220/W Small Group Communication [W] (#15855) [Revise number, prereqs; Add W version]
- n. COMM 4222/W People of Color and Interpersonal Communication [W] (#15846) [Revise number, prereqs]
- o. COMM 4230/W Organizational Communication [W] (#15849) [Revise number, prereqs]
- p. COMM 4300/W Advanced Media Effects [W] (#15943) [Revise prereqs]
- q. COMM 4330/W Children and Mass Media [W] (#15850) [Revise number, prereqs; Add W version]
- r. COMM 4410/W Government Communication [W] (#15856) [Revise title, number, prereqs; Add W version]
- s. COMM 4460/W Cross-Cultural Communication [W] (#15854) [Revise title, number, prereqs; Add W version]

- t. COMM 4640/W Social Media: Research and Practice [W] (#15841) [Revise prereqs]
- u. COMM 4660/W Computer-Mediated Communication [W] (#15845) [Revise level, prereqs]
- v. COMM 4700/W Health Communication [W] (#15853) [Revise number, prereqs; Add W version]
- w. COMM 4930W Public Relations Writing [W] (#15844) [Revise number, prereqs]
- x. EEB 3200W Writing in Evolutionary Biology [W] (#15719) [New W]
- y. EEB 3244W Writing in Ecology [W] (#15670) [Revise prereqs]
- z. GSCI 2050WE Communicating Earth and Environmental Science [W, EL] (#15470) [New W, EL]
- aa. MEM 4971W Senior Design Project I [W] (#15953) [Revise prereqs]
- bb. SOCI 2709W Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#15715) [Add EL]
- cc. URBN/HIST 3541/W The History of Urban America [W] (#13444) [Revise level]

- B. Ginsberg and L. Blansett presented the W report.
- K. McDermott asked for clarification on how the provisional approvals of the EEB courses will work. Have the co-chairs reached out to proposers to let them know of the need for a clear F-clause statement? Is the intention to approve the courses now and then try to get new syllabi for the Senate C&C meeting by Friday?
- The W co-chairs indicated that they would contact the EEB proposers and try to procure new syllabi for the courses so that the courses could be sent to the Senate C&C on Friday. In the meantime, their intention was to allow GEOC to approve the courses at this time.

The CA2 Report was approved as submitted (Approval of GSCI 2050WE, COMM 2310/W, COMM 3600/W, COMM 4200/W, COMM 4220/W, COMM 4230/W, COMM 4330/W; Provisional approval of EEB 3200W, EEB 3244W)

G. EL Report

- a. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079) [Revise description, add EL]
- b. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078) [Revise description, add EL]

Newly Added:

- c. GERM 2400 The Environment in German Culture [CA1, EL] (#15590) [Add EL]
- d. GSCI 2050WE Communicating Earth and Environmental Science [W, EL] (#15470) [New W, EL]
- e. SOCI 2701 Sustainable Societies [CA2, EL] (#) [Add CA2, EL]
- f. SOCI 2705 Sociology of Food [CA2, EL] (#) [Add CA2, EL]
- g. SOCI 2709W Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#) [Add CA2, EL]

- K. Tonry noted that discussions are still ongoing about the MARN courses.

H. Information Literacy Report (see 6.B. below)

I. Second Language Report

6. Other Reports

A. Learning Outcomes for Second Language Courses

- Co-Chair to-be M. Back helped to introduce the document and explain the proposed Second Language (SL) learning goals.
- One member agreed that incorporating learning goals related to culture was vital to second language learning.
- There was a question about needing to take the SL requirements in consecutive semesters. While it would be ideal for students to do so, members recognized that this was likely unenforceable.
- The sentence beginning, “Students must take two consecutive semesters of the language...” was revised to say, “Students are strongly encouraged to take two consecutive semesters of the language...”
- There was discussion of the guidelines and conditions for SL waivers and academic adjustments.

M. Morrell motioned to accept the report with the amended language and approve the Second Language learning goals. K. Dennis seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Information Literacy Discussion

- M. Wagner contacted Veronica Makowsky about the SEC’s charge to GEOC regarding IL for clarification. She conveyed GEOC’s concerns about putting a lot of time and effort into an initiative if there was no certainty that it would go anywhere. V. Makowsky indicated that the SEC could not give any more guidance without a fuller picture of the options and their pros and cons.
- One member expressed that IL should definitely be required and should be part of Gen Ed.
- One member asked how much IL is incorporated into FYW. The member noted that they just did not see room for anything else in Gen Ed.
- In the chat response, a representative from FYW noted that in FYW they begin engagement with info, media, and digital literacies, but the departments are supposed to pick it up from there, in part because each discipline has different ways of knowing.
- Another FYW representative emphasized that the engagement with IL (or IDML) in FYW is only introductory and that a single course cannot possibly cover everything that students need to know.
- It was noted as an aside that, under the new Gen Eds, Environmental Literacy will likely be an area of inquiry, not a literacy. In many ways, the IDML conversation is dependent on Delta2GE conversations.
- It was suggested that students can take two Q courses, one of which has an IMDL component, and two W courses, one of which has an IMDL component. This option raised concerns about capacity, though.
- Another member felt that adding IMDL to Q courses would “overload” the courses.
- One member felt that the SEC was asking for a fuller, longer report that advocates for something that many believe is already off the table and emphasized that GEOC needs to know the “boundaries of the possible.” The feeling that “We can imagine the most wonderful IL curriculum ever, but if we cannot do it, then what is the point?” was conveyed. The

member expressed that GEOC appears to be at an impasse with the SEC on this issue of who needs to make a decision first, SEC or GEOC.

- One member felt that maybe the solution was for GEOC to state that it wants to see an independent IMDL requirement and force a decision, one way or another.

L. Blansett motioned that GEOC recommends 'Information, Digital, and Media Literacy' should be a required competency. S. Majundar seconded.

- There was some concern that this motion was not specific enough. It was suggested that the committee reference one of the specific options mentioned in the IL report.

T. Scheinfeldt motioned to amend the recommendation to say the following: GEOC recommends IDML be made a competency on a par with Q, W, and (upcoming) E courses ; to wit, introduce a new designation (say, 'L') for IDML. We recommend allowing for the possibility of courses to double as W and L, E and L, or Q and L, but to also allow for L-courses that have no other designation. Additionally, we recommend a new (and newly funded) L-Center run by library to support L-courses, analogous to the Q- and Writing Centers. S. Majundar seconded.

- One member objected to the idea of doubling up IMDL with Q and W courses.
- Another member spoke in favor of it, suggesting that it was not required that IMDL courses double up, just possible.

G. Gibson made a motion to further amend the recommendation to remove the sentence, "We recommend allowing for the possibility of courses to double as W and L, E and L, or Q and L, but to also allow for L-courses that have no other designation." There was no second, so the motion was not considered.

- One member asked for clarification on the implications of the last part of the amended motion with regard to the creation of an L-center.
- It was noted that this goes back to the whole argument about taking IMDL seriously. Either UConn embraces IMDL as a part of the curriculum and commits to supporting it, or there is no point in having it.
- While there was general agreement about supporting IMDL, there was objection to taking the motion so far as to actually include the creation of a new center on campus in it, especially given the current budgetary crisis.
- Moreover, there was also concern that advocating for the creation of an L-center was outside of GEOC's purview. One member noted that there is a difference between the principle and the implementation and questioned whether GEOC wanted to risk the principle being rejected because there was opposition to the implementation.

M. Morrell made a motion to amend the recommendation by removing the last line of the amended motion about creating an L-Center. S. Majumdar seconded. The motion to amend was approved with one abstention.

- In order to streamline the motion, one member felt that the specifics of spelling out "W and L, E and L, or Q and L" could be removed in favor of simply leaving courses open to carrying other Gen Ed designations.

S. Majundar made a motion to amend the recommendation to remove the specifics of "W and L, E and L, or Q and L," etc and say only, "We recommend allowing for the possibility of courses to carry other designations."

M. Morrell seconded. The motion to amend was approved with one dissention.

The final motion, "GEOC recommends that the university make IDML a competency on a par with Q, W, and (upcoming) E courses; to wit, introduce a new designation (say, 'L') for IDML. We recommend allowing for the

possibility of courses to carry other designations,” was passed by a vote of seven in favor, one opposed, and one abstention.

C. Budget Report (see ‘GEOC Budget Report_FY 2020’)

- One member asked if we would be doing the student essay contest again. It was noted that this is a project we would like to continue, but it was not on our radar this year due to other concerns. Moreover, the contest was conceived of as a promotional activity for Gen Ed, so its continuation will likely be tied to the work of the Delta2GE.
- One member wanted to be sure that the Provost’s Office understood that GEOC giving back so much money this year was a consequence of the current situation and not because there was a lack of use for it. There was concern that this money would be taken away in the future if we gave too much back. M. Wagner assured the committee that the Provost’s Office understands that GEOC had uses for the funds, but that the more prudent thing to do given the current financial situation was to give it back.

D. Q Criteria Discussion

- We will continue this discussion in the fall.
- The Q subcommittee could use more regular members.

7. Carryover Business

A. Gen Ed Goals and Syllabi

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

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

8. Course Action Requests in the Queue

Full-Committee Review

A. N/A

Requests on Hold

A. N/A

Requests Awaiting Chair Review

A. N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott.