



## General Education Oversight Committee

October 12, 2020, 11:00am-12:30pm

Via WebEx

### Meeting Minutes

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

**Manuela Wagner** – Chair, (**Karen McDermott** – Admin, **Pooja Hingorany** – Admin), **Michele Back**, Fabrice Baudoin, **Oksan Bayulgen**, Lisa Blansett, **Brenda Brueggemann**, Kun Chen (sabbatical), **Robert Day**, **Kelly Dennis**, **George Gibson**, Beth Ginsberg, **Ali Gokirmak**, **Lori Gresham**, Neal Krishna (student rep), **Suman Majumdar**, **Morty Ortega**, **Tom Scheinfeldt**, Eric Schultz (Ex-Officio), **Jennifer Terni**, **Kathleen Tonry**, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, **Jason Vokoun**

**Regrets:** Lisa Blansett, Beth Ginsberg, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi

Called to order at 11:02 am

1. Preliminaries
2. Welcome and Regrets
3. Past and Future

A. Minutes of September 30, 2020 meeting (see 'Minutes\_9-30-20.docx')

- S. Majumdar submitted a suggestion for rewording: "If a student passes 4236 but fails 4237W, they cannot take 4237W again without concurrently taking 4236, unless the catalog copy is changed because 4236 is a co-requisite for 4237W."

**J. Vokoun motioned to approve. R. Day seconded. The minutes were approved with the revision.**

B. Fall Meeting Schedule

Oct. 28 (Wed) – 10:00am-11:30am

Nov. 9 (Mon) – 11:00am-12:30pm

Dec. 2 (Wed) – 10:00am-11:30am

#### 4. Chair's Report

A. Annual Course Alignment Project Timeline

- K. McDermott gave an overview and timeline of the project, mentioning that the deadline for submission of materials by the departments is the end of October. This often involves chasing some departments down, but if we have full participation and have all the documents needed before the Winter break, the review process can begin during the break and courses will then be provided to the subcommittees for review. The results of the alignment are usually announced in mid-Spring.
- For members' reference, GEOC's website has a page on how the alignment process works.

- EL courses do not have to worry about alignment for another 3-4 years.
- B. Delta2GE Update
- The working group would like to run a focus group for idea development. This would not involve a large time commitment, just one focus group and a follow up meeting.
- C. Letters to Gen Ed Instructors
- We are getting some interesting feedback from Gen Ed course instructors in response to emails that M. Wagner sent out to them.
  - Once the data has been collected, it will be shared at a meeting.
- D. Second University Senate Meeting
- The meeting that took place on October 5<sup>th</sup> was very long. It can be viewed online.
  - Important decisions were made regarding the P/F option and the Spring Academic Calendar.
- E. Ex-Officio Representation by Social Justice and Diversity Institutes
- Four of the cultural and diversity institutes expressed an interest in being represented on GEOC by an Ex-Officio member.
  - One member expressed strong support of this. The institutes have been frustrated over the years that they are not consulted on certain matters. The university has some excellent faculty in these institutes that can speak on topics of relevance to diversity and equity. Another member agreed.
  - One member expressed that the administration ignoring faculty expertise is not limited to the institutes.
  - One member was confused about the procedure. They asked if there was a procedural barrier to someone from the institutes being in the room. M. Wagner said there was not; however, she felt that allowing for actual representation on GEOC was more of a “public statement.” She is in the process of drafting a justification for this.
  - B. Brueggemann was the director of First Year Writing and has served on GEOC for many years. M. Wagner called on her to weight in, as she was previously an ex-officio; B. Brueggemann said she believes an equal case can be made for the Social Justice and Diversity Institutes having representation on GEOC.
- F. Senate C&CC
- Intensive session courses used to be reported for the information of the Senate, but there was a change to this policy at the beginning of the semester. We no longer have as much flexibility when we get a request for an intersession course, so there is a tighter timeline for approval.
  - Some colleagues highly depend on the flexibility of intersession courses. We are waiting on the SEC to review this issue and will have a conclusive decision regarding this issue shortly.

## 5. Subcommittee Dockets

- A. CA1 Docket
- a. PHIL 1108E Environmental Philosophy [CA1, EL] (#2694) [New Course]
  - K. Dennis presented the CA1 Report.

**The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (Approval of PHIL 1108E).**

- B. CA2 Docket (Pending)

- a. AFRA/SOCI 2250 Racial Disparities in Health [CA2] (#2755) [New CA2] - NEW
  - b. ARE 1150 Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics [CA2] (#321/51) [Revise title and description]
  - c. HRTS 2200 Introduction to Genocide Studies [CA2, CA4-Int] (#15891/2062) [New]
  - d. MAST 1300E People and Society in the Maritime Environment [CA2, CA4, EL] (#1687) [Add EL; Revise title & description]
  - e. SOCI 2701 Sustainable Societies [CA2, EL] (#15716/1998) [Add CA2, EL]
  - f. SOCI 2705 Sociology of Food [CA2, EL] (#15717/1999) [Add CA2, EL]
  - g. SOCI 2709W Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#15715/1997) [Add CA2, EL]
  - h. URBN 1300 Exploring Your Community [CA2, CA4] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request]
- R. Day presented the CA2 Report. There was some feedback about process, but nothing in the CARs or courses to hold them up.
  - K. McDermott will include comments from the report in the CAR notes before sending the courses to the Senate.
  - One member asked what the purview of the subcommittees is regarding syllabi. M. Wagner mentioned that notes can be made and passed onto the proposer but these notes do not need to impact the approval, unless it is deemed a necessary alteration by a subcommittee member. In this case, the course can be held until the change is made. Other issues can be flagged and will be reported as informational.

**The CA2 Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (Approval of AFRA/SOCI 2250, ARE 1150, HRTS 2200, MAST 1300E, SOCI 2701, SOCI 2705, SOCI 2709W, URBN 1300).**

- C. CA3 Docket (N/A)
- D. CA4 Docket (N/A)
  - a. URBN 1300 Exploring Your Community [CA2, CA4] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request]
- E. Q Docket (N/A)
- F. W Docket (Pending)
  - a. ANTH/HRTS 3320W Propaganda, Disinformation, and Hate Speech [CA2, W] (#14977/1876) [New Course]
  - b. COMM 3430/W Science Communication [W] (#2112) [New W]
  - c. COMM 4222/W People of Color and Interpersonal Communication [W] (#15846/2047) [Revise number, prereqs]
  - d. COMM 4410/W Government Communication [W] (#15856/2056) [Revise title, number, prereqs; Add W version]
  - e. COMM 4640/W Social Media: Research and Practice [W] (#15841/2042) [Revise prereqs]
  - f. COMM 4660/W Computer-Mediated Communication [W] (#15845/2046) [Revise level, prereqs]

- g. COMM 4700/W Health Communication [W] (#15853/2053) [Revise number, prereqs; Add W version]
- h. COMM 4930W Public Relations Writing [W] (#15844/2045) [Revise number, prereqs]
- i. ECON 2327/W Information Technology for Economics [W] (#2121) [Add W section]
- j. ECON 2451/W Economic Behavior and Health Policy [W] (#2119) [New W]
- k. ENGL 2640/W Studies in Film [CA1, W] (#2614) [Revise credits]
- l. GEOG/URBN 3200/W Urban Geography [W] (#14902/1861) [Add W]
- m. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724/1509) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
- n. HIST 3205/W Personality and Power in the Twentieth Century [CA1, W] (#2594) [Revise level, title; Add CA1 & W]
- o. KINS 4510/W Advanced Topics in Health and Sport Performance [W] (#11325/1341) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
- n. PHAR 3087W Honors Thesis in Pharmacy [W] (#13865/1688) [Adding PHRX cross-listing]
- L. Gresham presented the W Report.
- K. McDermott briefly explained why the two courses (ENGL 2640/W and KINS 4510/W) were being waived.
- L. Gresham noted that very often old versions of syllabi are uploaded. She wondered if there is a way to send a reminder to proposers to update their syllabi prior to submitting a proposal.
- One member noted that department and college C&Cs need to do their job and adequately review the courses and syllabi that come through their committees. GEOC should deflect a little so that we receive the courses in optimal shape after passing through the prior committees.
- M. Wagner said that if a subcommittee believes they are being held up by issues with proposals, she has no problem addressing them by emailing the proposer.
- One member noted that their department has actually been good about returning CARs to proposers if they are lacking something. They agreed that C&C committees need to have their feet held to the fire.

**The W Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (Approval of COMM 3430/W, COMM 4640W, COMM 4660/W, COMM 4700/W, ECON 2451/W, GEOG/URBN 3200/W; Waiving of ENGL 2640/W, KINS 4510/W).**

- One member asked about the 1-credit W issue. Is the subcommittee looking into this? Yes, they want to look at it in committee, and M. Wagner will help determine if a working group is needed.

#### G. EL Docket

- a. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
- b. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]
- c. NRE 3245 Environmental Law [EL] (#3019) [Add EL]
- d. PHIL 1108E Environmental Philosophy [CA1, EL] (#2694) [New Course]

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

## **6. New Business**

A. Provost's Office General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition

- M. Wagner asked for ideas. One member seconded the idea of a focus on online courses.
- One member mentioned that we have not excluded the revision or rebooting of existing courses for the competition and that incorporating online modalities into pre-existing classes could be a way of doing this.
- Another idea was to accept suggestions for classes that could take advantage of the proposed "fancy classroom" in the new Science 1 building. [Post-meeting note: This is the "active learning classroom" scheduled to open in Fall 2022.]
- M. Wagner explained that the current online situation could enhance learning at a later time through modalities such as a flipped classroom.
- Another member mentioned that the current situation opens up the potential of offering students a semester online in the future. This would be an opportunity for students to save money for a single semester. By offering this, the university would not lose money, since other students would take their place in person.
- A reminder regarding the competition will be sent and will be shared during the next meeting as well. We want to get the competition going as soon as possible.

## **7. Old Business**

A. General Education and COVID-19

## **8. Carryover Business**

A. Gen Ed Goals and Syllabi

B. Q Criteria Discussion

C. 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")

D. Study Abroad and CA4 Gen Ed

## **9. 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

**K. Dennis motioned to adjourn. L. Gresham seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am. Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott and Pooja Hingorany.**