



General Education Oversight Committee

September 2, 2020, 10:00am-11:30am

Via WebEx

Meeting Minutes

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

Manuela Wagner – Chair, (Karen McDermott – 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,** Olivier Morand, **Morty Ortega, Tom Scheinfeldt,** Eric Schultz (Ex-Officio), **Jennifer Terni, Kathleen Tonry, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi,** Jason Vokoun

Regrets: Brenda Brueggemann, Kelly Dennis

1. Preliminaries

Meeting link: <https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/uconn-cmr/j.php?MTID=m7b08cd11f6751206ca24db9eb0365f5f>

Meeting number: 120 196 5855

Password: YgF2GfCFJ35

Called to order at 10:10am

2. Welcome and Regrets

A. 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)

- Members introduced themselves, and M. Wagner highlighted and welcomed the new members.

3. Past and Future

A. Minutes of April 27, 2020 meeting (see 'Minutes_4-27-20.docx')

The minutes were eApproved unanimously in the Spring.

B. Fall Meeting Schedule

- Sept. 2 (Wed) – 10:00am-11:30am
- Sept. 14 (Mon) – 11:00am-12:30pm
- Sept. 30 (Wed) – 10:00am-11:30am
- Oct. 12 (Mon) – 11:00am-12:30pm
- 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. Procedures for reviewing general education courses

- M. Wagner detailed the process for reviewing courses for the benefit of new members and as a reminder for previous members.

B. Update on subcommittee compositions

- Thanks to a request that one member sent out, we had a number of faculty volunteer to serve on subcommittees. M. Wagner will connect with subcommittee co-chairs about their members in the coming weeks.

C. Learning Outcomes for Second Language Courses accepted by last Senate C&C meeting Spring 2020

- We passed new learning outcomes at the last meeting, and these were approved by the Senate C&C at their last meeting. They will go to the University Senate this month.

D. Update on the Info Literacy Discussion

- Members had an extended discussion last meeting, and GEOC resolved that Digital, Media, and Information Literacy should have a credit requirement.
- T. Scheinfeld was invited to join Delta2GE to represent this interest.

E. Delta2GE Update – Plans for Fall 2020

- M. Wagner gave a brief update on the progress of this initiative.
- There is a constant tension between wanting to cover a lot of different areas without adding more credits.

F. Conversation with Provost, Carl Lejuez

- M. Wagner met with the new Provost and found him extremely supportive of undergraduate of education.

G. Conversation with Associate Vice Provost for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Peter Diplock

- M. Wagner had a conversation with Peter Diplock about Gen Ed and COVID. This will be discussed more later.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket (N/A)

B. CA2 Docket

- a. ARE 1150 Principles of Agricultural and Resource Economics [CA2] (#321/51) [Revise title and description]
- b. HRTS 2200 Introduction to Genocide Studies [CA2, CA4-Int] (#15891/2062) [New]
- c. SOCI 2701 Sustainable Societies [CA2, EL] (#15716/1998) [Add CA2, EL]
- d. SOCI 2705 Sociology of Food [CA2, EL] (#15717/1999) [Add CA2, EL]
- e. SOCI 2709W Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#15715/1997) [Add CA2, EL]

C. CA3 Docket (N/A)

D. CA4 Docket (N/A)

E. Q Docket

- a. COMM 3000Q Research Methods in Communication [Q] (#15811/2012) [Revise number]

F. W Docket (see 'W Report_9-2-2020')

- a. ANTH/HRTS 3320W Propaganda, Disinformation, and Hate Speech [CA2, W] (#14977/1876) [New Course]
- b. CHIN 3230W Language & Identity in Greater China [CA1, CA4-INT, W] (#15631/1976) [Add W version]
- c. COMM 4222/W People of Color and Interpersonal Communication [W] (#15846/2047) [Revise number, prereqs]
- d. COMM 4300/W Advanced Media Effects [W] (#15943/2044) [Revise prereqs]
- e. COMM 4410/W Government Communication [W] (#15856/2056) [Revise title, number, prereqs; Add W version]
- f. COMM 4460/W Cross-Cultural Communication [W] (#15854/2054) [Revise title, number, prereqs; Add W version]
- g. COMM 4640/W Social Media: Research and Practice [W] (#15841/2042) [Revise prereqs]
- h. COMM 4660/W Computer-Mediated Communication [W] (#15845/2046) [Revise level, prereqs]
- i. COMM 4700/W Health Communication [W] (#15853/2053) [Revise number, prereqs; Add W version]
- j. COMM 4930W Public Relations Writing [W] (#15844/2045) [Revise number, prereqs]
- k. FREN 3211 Contemporary France [CA1-e, CA4-Int, W] (#14782/1836) [Making existing course a W]
- 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. KINS 3545W Resistance Training for Health and Performance [W] (#11322/1338) [New W]
- o. KINS 4510/W Advanced Topics in Health and Sport Performance [W] (#11325/1341) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]
- p. MEM 4971W Senior Design Project I [W] (#15953/2068) [Revise prereqs]
- q. NURS 3715W Nursing Leadership [W] (#14757/1824) [Revise title & description]
- r. PHAR 3087W Honors Thesis in Pharmacy [W] (#13865/1688) [Adding PHRX cross-listing]
- s. SLHS 1150/W Introduction to Communication Disorders [CA2, CA4, W] (#15156/1916) [Adding W version]
- t. SOCI 2709W Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#15715/1997) [Add EL]
- u. URBN/HIST 3541/W The History of Urban America [W] (#13444/1625) [Revise level]

- B. Ginsberg gave an overview of the courses on which the W subcommittee reported.

The W Report was approved as submitted with one abstention (Approval of CHIN 3230W, KINS 3545W, KINS 4510W, MEM 4971W, NURS 3715W, SLHS 1150W, SOCI 2709W, URBN/HIST 3541W).

G. EL Docket

- a. GERM 2400 The Environment in German Culture [CA1, EL] (#15590/1971) [Add EL]
- b. GSCI 2050WE Communicating Earth and Environmental Science [W, EL] (#15470/1956) [New W,

EL]

- c. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
- d. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]
- 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. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

6. New Business

A. General Education and COVID-19

- One member shared the story of a student who ran into multiple issues with the online format over the summer. Ultimately the member just had to be flexible and give the student an incomplete so they could finish the course when they had the proper resources.
- Another member recommended CETL courses for instructors and emphasized the need to support colleagues. If we want to do our best for our students, we need to be at our best ourselves.
- There was an acknowledgement that this has been a mentally and emotionally exhausting process for faculty as well as students.
- One member expressed an issue with the availability of Gen Ed courses, especially given the transition to online courses. Seats are limited, and many students do not have the proper resources, e.g. a laptop that can handle online meetings, internet connection, bandwidth, etc.
- M. Wagner noted that she is on the Technology Steering Committee. A number of initiatives are underway, including stipends for students who cannot afford laptops.
- A number of members noted a reverse problem. They have in-person components to their classes and they are dealing with students who are off-campus and want to meet online, or who are currently under quarantine in their dorms and cannot go out.

B. Procedures for de-designating general education courses

- GEOC has an alignment process, and we now have the authority to de-designate courses that no longer meet their Gen Ed area criteria. The document detailing this process will be sent around right after the meeting. Please review it for the next meeting.

7. 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

8. Course Action Requests in the Queue

Full-Committee Review

A. N/A

Requests on Hold

A. N/A

Requests Awaiting Chair Review

- A. COMM 3430/W Science Communication [W] (#2112) [New W]
- B. ECON 2451/W Economic Behavior and Health Policy [W] (#2115) [New W]
- C. ENGL 3715E Nature Writing Workshop [EL] (#2115) [Revise description]
- D. MAST 1300E People and Society in the Maritime Environment [CA2, CA4, EL] (#1687) [Add EL; Revise title & description]

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott.