



General Education Oversight Committee

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

Via WebEx

Meeting Minutes

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

Manuela Wagner – Chair, (Karen McDermott – Admin), Michele Back, Fabrice Baudoin, **Oksan Bayulgen,** Lisa Blansett (**Alex Gatten** for Lisa), **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, Michele Back

Called to order at 10:05 am

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

A. Minutes of September 14, 2020 meeting (see 'Minutes_9-14-20.docx')

- There were no changes to the minutes.

M. Ortega motioned to approve. K. Dennis seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted with one abstention.

B. Fall Meeting Schedule

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

Chair's Report

A. Annual Course Alignment Project – ANTH, BIOL, EEB, PNB, MCB, CHEG, DGS, DIET, DRAM, EDCI, GSCI, HEJS, PHAR/PHRX, PHIL, SCI, SLHS, URBN

- K. McDermott has a list of all the courses that GEOC will align this year, and she will post it to HuskyCT shortly. Most subcommittees have up to 3-4 courses. As usual, W has the most with 13, and CA4 also has a lot with 9.

B. Delta2GE Update

- The committee will meet with Michael Bradford to discuss initiatives.

C. 1-Credit Ws

- M. Wagner summarized what she and K. McDermott learned about 1-credit Ws. In short, the grade for the 1-credit W is separate from the other 3-credit course, and students can fail the 1-credit W without failing the 3 credit course.
- B. Ginsberg asked if the W subcommittee could review this issue and discuss possible policy changes. M. Wagner indicated that the W subcommittee could go ahead and start discussing the issue, but that we might want to think about forming a working group if we want to actually initiate a policy change.
- One member noted a possible issue with being able to pass the regular part of the course while failing the W-part. Courses like NUSC 4236 and NUSC 4237W must be taken together. 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.

D. De-Designation of Gen Ed Courses

- M. Wagner spoke with Mansour Ndiaye and Marc Hatfield about the issues raised by the GEOC last time. Eric Schultz expressed a potential solution, but nothing will move forward without GEOC's input.

E. Subcommittee compositions and course review procedures

- M. Wagner asked co-chairs to share how they operate their subcommittees. B. Ginsberg shared that in the W subcommittee, both co-chairs review all courses, but then courses are divided between members for additional review so as not to overwhelm them.

F. Letters to Gen Ed Instructors

- We have drafted letters that will go out to the instructors of all Gen Ed courses. In particular, M. Wagner asked instructors to let her know about any ways in which COVID has affected their teaching of Gen Ed courses.

G. Vice Provost for Faculty, Staff, and Student Development

H. First University Senate Meeting

I. Preference for Accessing/Receiving CARs in Subcommittee

- K. McDermott asked if co-chairs would prefer to continue to receive emails from her with CARs attached or if they would prefer to have the CARs uploaded to HuskyCT and have access granted to their subcommittee members. The vast majority wanted to continue to receive emails.

Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

- a. ENGL 2640/W Studies in Film [CA1, W] (#2614) [Revise credits]
- b. HIST 2210E History of the Ocean [CA1, EL] (N/A) [Intensive session req]
- c. HIST 3205/W Personality and Power in the Twentieth Century [CA1, W] (#2594) [Revise level, title; Add CA1 & W]
- d. HIST 3554 Immigrants and the Shaping of U.S. History [CA1, CA4] (N/A) [Intensive session req]
 - K. Dennis presented the CA1 report.
 - One member noted as an aside that the intensives session request form was very inadequate. K. McDermott asked for feedback. She is pushing to have the form transitioned to the online workflow system. What questions would members like to see on the form?

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (Approval of HIST 2201E, ENGL 2540W, HIST 3205/W, HIST 3554).

B. CA2 Docket

- 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]

C. CA3 Docket (N/A)

D. CA4 Docket

- a. HIST 3554 Immigrants and the Shaping of U.S. History [CA1, CA4] (N/A) [Intensive session req]
 - M. Ortega presented the subcommittee report.
 - One of the linked syllabi was inaccessible, and there was a question as to whether it was the regular session syllabus or the intensive session syllabus. After determining that it was the latter, the course was cleared to proceed.

The CA4 Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (Approval of HIST 3554).

E. Q Docket (N/A)

F. W Docket

- 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 Information Technology for Economics [W] (#2121) [
- 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]
- n. PHAR 3087W Honors Thesis in Pharmacy [W] (#13865/1688) [Adding PHRX cross-listing]

G. EL Docket

- a. ENGL 3175E Nature Writing Workshop [EL] (#2115) [Revise description]
 - b. GERM 2400 The Environment in German Culture [CA1, EL] (#15590/1971) [Add EL]
 - c. GSCI 2050WE Communicating Earth and Environmental Science [W, EL] (#15470/1956) [New W, EL]
 - d. GSCI/GEOG 2310 Creating and Sustaining Our National Parks [EL] (#2104/16162) [Add EL]
 - e. HIST 2210E History of the Ocean [CA1, EL] (N/A) [Intensive session req]
 - f. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
 - g. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]
 - h. MAST 1300 People and Society in the Maritime Environment [CA2, CA4, EL] (#1687) [Add EL; Revise title & description]
 - i. SOCI 2701 Sustainable Societies [CA2, EL] (#15716/1998) [Add CA2, EL]
 - j. SOCI 2705 Sociology of Food [CA2, EL] (#15717/1999) [Add CA2, EL]
 - k. SOCI 2709W Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#15715/1997) [Add CA2, EL]
- J. Vokoun presented the EL report.
 - He noted that the committee met in person when it was first formed in order to calibrate its definition of EL and how it applied to courses. The group now meets remotely, either by video chat or through extended email chain. The group first reverse-triages courses to approve

those that easily and clearly meet the EL criteria. From there the group takes some time to discuss the courses that are not as clear-cut.

- The EL subcommittee felt that HIST 2210E had some substantial differences between the regular session version and the intensive session, but these changes were not relevant to the EL criteria. The changes to the course made its focus much more contemporary and less historical, but this did not affect the EL criteria.
- There was some discussion among members about whether or not the significance of this change should be brought to someone's attention and what recourse, if any, there was for it. GEOC can bring these issues to either the Senate C&C, the Senate Executive Committee and/or Scholastic Standards, as appropriate.
- It was noted that the problems with this history course are not unique. This issue of whether or not a 15-week course can really be condensed into a 4-week session and maintain its integrity is a question that the curriculum committees have discussed before.

The EL Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (Approval of ENGL 3175E, GERM 2400, GSCI/GEOG 2310, HIST 2210E, MAST 1300, SOCI 2701, SOCI 2705, SOCI 2709W).

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

Old Business

A. General Education and COVID-19

- If anyone has any additional thoughts on this, let M. Wagner know.

Other Business (Added)

A. Standards for Second Language – Revision of Catalog Language

- J. Terni brought up an issue with students who are native speakers of a language but who try to take an introductory course in that language for easy credit. They had a unique case this year with a student who refused to be removed from a class and the catalog language was just vague enough to allow him to stay.
- M. Wagner assigned the Second Language committee to look into this issue.

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

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

**B. Day motioned to adjourn. M. Ortega seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 pm.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott**