



## General Education Oversight Committee

November 9, 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 (Alex Gatten for Lisa Blansett), Brenda Brueggemann, Kun Chen (sabbatical), Robert Day, Kelly Dennis, George Gibson, Beth Ginsberg, Ali Gokirmak, Lori Gresham, Suman Majumdar, Morty Ortega, Tom Scheinfeldt, Eric Schultz (Ex-Officio), Jennifer Terni, Kathleen Tonry, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Jason Vokoun**

**Regrets:**

Called to order at 11:02 am

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

A. Minutes of October 28, 2020 meeting (see 'Minutes\_10-28-20')

- S. Majumdar needs to be added to the minutes as an attendee.

**J. Vokoun motioned to approve the minutes as edited. M. Ortega seconded. The minutes were approved as edited.**

B. Fall Meeting Schedule

Dec. 2 (Wed) – 10:00am-11:30am – **Last meeting to approved courses before the Catalog Deadline**

- This is the last meeting of the semester. Co-Chairs should have plenty of time to meet with their subcommittees.

#### 4. Chair's Report

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

- With the help of the committee, five priorities of the competition were determined.
- M. Wagner shared the updated competition call for proposals with the committee and asked for GEOC members to nudge their colleagues who may have ideas for Gen Ed courses.

B. Course Alignment Project

- K. McDermott gave an update. We are doing well. Almost every report was in by the deadline, which is unusual.
- K. McDermott will be able to send out alignment information to subcommittees a lot sooner than normal.

#### C. Delta2GE Update

- The group is trying to get on the SEC's schedule for November 20, but it is a time when there are many competing issues.
- The group needs feedback on issues such as communication with the wider university community.

#### D. Environmental Literacy (EL) Meeting – Nov. 17

- We now have more than a year of EL in place and want to discuss the status quo.
- There were some concerns about the characteristics, statistics, and requirements of EL courses.
- One member asked if regional campus directors were notified about this meeting. M. Wagner indicated that we checked in with advisors on regional campuses to hear their concerns, and we are not actually getting many concerns. This could be due to the fact that courses are currently online, so there is more availability.
- M. Wagner will check in with regional campus directors as well.

#### E. Website

- Thanks to an inquiry from members of the Second Language subcommittee, we are updating language on the GEOC website. If you see anything that needs updating, please let us know.

#### F. De-Designating courses that no longer meet the general education requirements

- During the last meeting, procedures regarding de-designation were voted on.
- The document was discussed in Senate CC&C and some changes were requested.
- It was suggested that a non-responsiveness section is needed, that we should notify Senate CC&C during this process, and that there should be clarity on when the 4-week clock starts to tick.
- There was a question as to whether de-designation violates by-laws or not, and it was generally felt that it does not.
- M. Wagner is trying to have monthly meetings with Michael Bradford. She will update him on the de-designation project.

#### G. University Senate – Motion by students for Pass/Fail

- The motion on extending the P/F period brought forth by students failed, not necessarily because it was not favored but because of procedural issues. This motion does not really have a path forward.
- One member expressed a little surprise at the tenor of the message coming out of student survey.

- One member noted that CLAS uses the Gen Eds as part of the major requirements and roughly 40% of the student body belongs to CLAS, so this likely precludes any change from being able to happen. It was also noted that the motion regarding Pass/Fail would have been more beneficial to underclassmen because they tend to have more general education courses in their schedules.
- M. Wagner brought up the possibility of a less restrictive Pass/Fail motion that would require the approval of an advisor, but advisors are spread very, very thin right now.
- One member said students have expressed that courses are getting much harder and each varies greatly in modality, which makes it more difficult to keep up.
- One member indicated that they have been very flexible when students have requested extensions, and that students have shown a lot of gratitude in these circumstances.
- One member noted that students really are stretched.
- One member mentioned that students have said that they have no idea what their grade is at the moment, which is why including information on how to calculate your grade on the syllabus is extremely important.
- One member noted that the School of Engineering failure rate is 5%, but attendance is about 40-50%. Grades last semester seemed to be significantly higher than normal. There is already grade inflation, so if we allow additional leeway for P/F, the grading system in general may need to be re-aligned.

#### H. Courses Approved for Intensive Session by eVote:

- NRE 2215E Introduction to Water Resources (EL)
  - EPSY 2450 Whole Child, School, and Community: Linking Health and Education (CA2)
  - POLS 3240E Environmental and Climate Justice (CA2, EL)
- M. Wagner noted that the courses were temporarily approved by E. Schultz as the Senate C&C Chair. They will still need Senate approval to be permanently offered.

### 5. Subcommittee Dockets

#### A. CA1 Docket

- GERM 1920 Cyborgs, Robots, and Androids in the German Imaginary [CA1, CA4-INT] (#2935) [New Course]

#### *New Additions*

- ARTH/AMST/ DMD 3570 History and Theory of Digital Art [CA1, CA4] (#14432/1767) [Revise descriptions, cross-list with DMD, add CA1 and CA4, Intensive Session Request]
- ARTH/HIST/ARIS 3710 Islamic Art [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#14495/1788) [New course]

#### *Discussion*

- K. Dennis presented the CA1 report.

**The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (approval of GERM 1920, ARTH/AMST/DMD 3570, ARTH/HIST/ARIS 3710).**

#### B. CA2 Docket

- HRTS 2100W Human Rights and Social Change [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#2715) [New Course]

*New Additions*

- b. AFRA/SOCI 2461 Race, Gender and US Health Care [CA2, CA4] (#3295) [New Course]
- c. HDFS 3311W Parenthood and Parenting [CA2, W] (#3479) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]
- d. HDFS 3540W Child Welfare, Law and Social Policy [CA2, W] (#3480) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]
- e. HDFS/SOCI 3240W Aging in American Society [CA2, W] (#3481) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]

C. CA3 Docket

- a. GEOG 2300 Introduction to Physical Geography [CA3, EL] (#3176) [Add EL]

*Discussion*

- A. Gokirmak presented the CA3 report.

**The CA3 Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (approval of GEOG 2300).**

D. CA4 Docket

- a. GERM 1920 Cyborgs, Robots, and Androids in the German Imaginary [CA1, CA4-INT] (#2935) [New Course]
- b. HRTS 2100W Human Rights and Social Change [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#2715) [New Course]

*New Additions*

- c. AFRA/SOCI 2461 Race, Gender and US Health Care [CA2, CA4] (#3295) [New Course]
- d. ARTH/AMST/ DMD 3570 History and Theory of Digital Art [CA1, CA4] (#14432/1767) [Revise descriptions, cross-list with DMD, add CA1 and CA4, Intensive Session Request]
- e. ARTH/HIST/ARIS 3710 Islamic Art [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#14495/1788) [New course]

*Discussion*

- O. Bayulgen presented the CA4 report.

**The CA4 Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (approval of GERM 1920, HRTS 2100W).**

E. Q Docket

F. W Docket

- a. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724/1509) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
- b. HRTS 2100/W Human Rights and Social Change [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#2715) [New Course]
- c. MATH 2710/W Transition to Advanced Mathematics [W] (#3119) [Revise description]
- d. WGSS 3265W Research Methodology [W] (#3040) [Revise title and description]

*New Additions*

- e. ARTH/HIST/ARIS 3710 Islamic Art [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#14495/1788) [New course]
- f. ENGL 3003W Advanced Expository Writing [W] (#2994) [Revise title and prereqs]
- g. HDFS 3311W Parenthood and Parenting [CA2, W] (#3479) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]

- h. HDFS 3540W Child Welfare, Law and Social Policy [CA2, W] (#3480) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]
- i. HDFS/SOCI 3240W Aging in American Society [CA2, W] (#3481) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]
- j. SOCI 3311 Deviant Behavior [W] (#2894) [Revise level and prereqs]
- k. WGSS 4994W Senior Seminar [W] (#3117) [Revise description and prereqs]

*Discussion*

- B. Ginsberg presented the report.

**The W Report was accepted as submitted unanimously (approval of WGSS 3265W, HDFS 3311W, HDFS 3540W, and HDFS/SOCI 3240W).**

G. EL Docket

- a. GEOG 2300 Introduction to Physical Geography [CA3, EL] (#3176) [Add EL]
- b. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
- c. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]
- d. NRE 3245 Environmental Law [EL] (#3019) [Add EL]
- e. PNB 3252 Physiological Model Systems [EL] (#3217) [Add EL, revise prereqs and description]

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

**6. New Business**

A. TBD

**7. Old Business**

- A. General Education and COVID-19
- B. Ex-Officio Representation by Social Justice and Diversity Institutes
  - M. Wagner is still in communication with this group. She is sorting out the details.

**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

**M. Ortega motioned to adjourn. B. Ginsberg seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.  
Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott and Pooja Hingorany.**