



## General Education Oversight Committee

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

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, Alex Gatten**, 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 10:02 am**

**1. Preliminaries**

**2. Welcome and Regrets**

**3. Past and Future**

A. Minutes of November 9, 2020 meeting (see 'Minutes\_11-9-20')

- There were no edits.

**B. Ginsberg motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. M Ortega seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted.**

B. Spring Meeting Schedule

Wed. January 20, 11:00am-12:30pm

Wed. February 3, 11:00am-12:30pm

Mon. February 15, 10:30am-12:00pm

Wed. March 3, 11:00am-12:30pm

Mon. March 15, 10:30am-12:00pm

Wed. April 7, 11:00am-12:30pm

Mon. April 26, 10:30am-12:00pm

**4. Chair's Report**

A. Course Alignment Project

- K. McDermott gave an update on the alignment. We are only waiting on one more department for alignment materials. They have requested a second extension, but this still means that we will receive all of the alignment materials at least a month sooner than usual. K. McDermott will send

alignment materials to all the subcommittees to distribute within the next couple weeks. They will be due in early March. If members have questions about the alignment, we are planning an optional workshop for January. The alignment is not significantly different than the regular course review process.

B. Delta2GE Update

- The group is on track to start a big communications campaign.

C. Environmental Literacy (EL) Meeting Update

- M. Wagner, K. McDermott, J. Vokoun, and K. Tonry met with the chairs of various school and college curriculum committees in late November to discuss the state of EL at UConn thus far.
- There were differing opinions on whether there were enough EL courses and seats to meet future needs.
- One attendee commented that they did not want to submit a course for EL consideration because it was too complicated. This was disappointing because we want to encourage broad participation from departments in this requirement.
- One complication discussed at the meeting was that some students with environmentally-themed majors may be taking up more than one EL seat.
- We also discovered that a faculty member who teaches a large lecture EL course is retiring soon, so the fate of that course is uncertain.
- We need to continue to address EL with a two-pronged attack; that is, we need both more seats in existing courses as well as more new courses.

D. De-Designating courses that no longer meet the general education requirements – Senate C&C

- This proposal is now with Scholastic Standards, but SSC is very busy, so it may take them some time to get to it.

E. Meeting with Stamford Advisors, Terry Reilly (Ass Campus Dir) Tamara O’Day-Stevens (Dir of Academic Affairs)

- M. Wagner met with some of the advising staff from the Stamford campus. She is learning about the different needs of specific campuses.

**Subcommittee Dockets**

A. CA1 Docket

- a. AAAS/HIST 3531 Japanese Americans and World War II [CA1, CA4] (#15273/1937) [Cross list with AMST]

*Discussion*

- K. Dennis presented the report.

**The CA1 Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of AASI/HIST 3531).**

B. CA2 Docket

- a. AFRA/SOCI 2461 Race, Gender and US Health Care [CA2, CA4] (#3295) [New Course]
- b. HDFS 3311W Parenthood and Parenting [CA2, W] (#3479) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]
- c. HDFS 3540W Child Welfare, Law and Social Policy [CA2, W] (#3480) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]
- d. HDFS/SOCI 3240W Aging in American Society [CA2, W] (#3481) [Dropping the W version, keeping the non-W]
- e. HRTS 2100W Human Rights and Social Change [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#2715) [New Course]

*Discussion*

- R. Day presented the CA2 report.
- He noted that there needs to be more standardization on what we receive in the proposals for both CARs and syllabi. It occurs often that the appropriate information is in the CAR but not in the syllabus.

**The CA2 Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of AFRA/SOCI 2461, HDFS 3311W, HDFS 3540W, HDFS/SOCI 3240W, HRTS 2100W).**

C. CA3 Docket

D. CA4 Docket

- a. AASI/HIST 3531 Japanese Americans and World War II [CA1, CA4] (#15273/1937) [Cross list with AMST]
- b. AFRA/SOCI 2461 Race, Gender and US Health Care [CA2, CA4] (#3295) [New Course]
- c. 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]
- d. 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 approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of AAAS/HIST 3531, AFRA/SOCI 2461, ARTH/AMST/DMD 3570, ARTH/HIST/ARIS 3710).**

E. Q Docket

F. W Docket

- a. ARTH/HIST/ARIS 3710 Islamic Art [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#14495/1788) [New course]
- b. ENGL 3003W Advanced Expository Writing [W] (#2994) [Revise title and prereqs]
- c. HIST 1600W Intro to Latin America and the Caribbean [CA1, CA4-Int, W] (#12724/1509) [Adding W version of HIST cross-list]
- d. HRTS 2100W Human Rights and Social Change [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#2715) [New Course]
- e. MATH 2710/W Transition to Advanced Mathematics [W] (#3119) [Revise description]
- f. SOCI 3311W Deviant Behavior [W] (#2894) [Revise level and prereqs]
- g. WGSS 4994W Senior Seminar [W] (#3117) [Revise description and prereqs]

*Discussion*

- B. Ginsberg presented the W report.
- There is a major issue with proposers adding old syllabi to the CARs. This is slowing down review because the chairs must contact proposers about noncompliant syllabi only to be sent a more recent syllabus that meets all requirements. It creates additional work.
- M. Wagner and K. McDermott discussed this issue, and they will brainstorm solutions. One idea is to send departments and C&Cs a checklist to follow.

**The W Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of ARTH/HIST/ARIS 3710, HIST 1600W, HRTS 2100W, MATH 2710/W, SOCI 3311W).**

G. EL Docket

- ENVE/EVST/EVST 3110 Brownfield Redevelopment [EL] (#3715) [Add EL]
- GEOG 2300 Introduction to Physical Geography [CA3, EL] (#3176) [Add EL]
- MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
- MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]
- NRE 3245 Environmental Law [EL] (#3019) [Add EL]
- PNB 3252 Physiological Model Systems [EL] (#3217) [Add EL, revise prereqs and description]

*Discussion*

- J. Vokoun presented the EL report.
- The course being declined is about the use of animal testing. Committee members unanimously decided that it did not meet requirements. The EL Chairs contacted the proposer about possible revision, but the proposer could not change the course to accommodate EL requirements.

**The EL Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of NRE 3245, GEOG 2300; decline of PNB 3252).**

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

**New Business**

- Proposal for Ex-Officio Representation by Social Justice and Diversity Institutes
  - The American Studies Institute may be added eventually.
  - One member suggested there may be more action on the subcommittees. They wondered if the institutes really need to be on the main GEOC committee to influence policy. M. Wagner indicated that, yes, the institutes still want a seat at GEOC, at least partially for the flow of information.
  - One member expressed a concern about continually expanding the committee. Where do we stop?
  - Some members did not think that ex-officio representation was the best option. They suggested that the institutes should be given voting power. They noted that it is difficult to ask faculty to give their time and input without the ability to vote so that they can have an actual impact.

- M. Wagner asked members if they would still be in favor of this proposal if it was for a permanent voting position.
- One member expressed that having a voice and input is critical, even it does not carry an actual vote. If people want a seat at the table, then they should be given a seat at the table.
- One member stated that it was essential to have representation from this group in particular, especially at this time. It would be embarrassing not to include them. The more experts, the better.
- One member noted that the slippery slope argument has historically been used to exclude representation of key groups.
- There was some concern that the proposal was talking about administrative directors, not faculty. It was clarified that most of the directors in the case of the institutes are faculty, not administration.
- It was noted that these are the academic institutes, not the cultural centers on campus.
- There was some confusion about the last sentence in the by-law paragraph. It was suggested that we need to change “GEOC subcommittee chair” to “Senate-appointed GEOC member” or similar, since GEOC members do not always have to be subcommittee co-chairs.
- Another option would be to remove the sentence altogether to avoid confusion; it seems redundant given the information in the rest of the paragraph. This would involve changing previously approved language.
- One member noted that they would have an issue giving a non-faculty member voting rights on GEOC. It is highly unlikely that any of the institute Directors or Associate Directors would not be faculty, though.
- It was suggested that we use more generic language in the by-laws so we do not have to keep changing it every time a new institute is added. There did not seem to be any support for this.
- There was support for changing some of the lead-in language, though.

**S. Majumdar motioned to amend language in the proposal to read, “One representative from the following institutes:” M. Ortega seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**K. Tonry motioned to approve the proposal as amended. B. Brueggemann seconded. The motion was approved as amended unanimously.**

- One member wondered if we should have specified a “faculty” member representative.
- Another member observed that if the position is not a voting member, then it should not matter.
- One member reiterated that it is very unlikely a non-faculty member will be appointed as the representative for this group. These are by nature faculty positions.
- If there are still additional concerns, please contact M. Wagner. This is not a done-deal. There is still room for additional input and changes.

**B. PR and Mentoring Campaign for Gen Ed in the Spring:**

- a. Awareness of importance of Gen Ed (students, staff, faculty: presentations of Gen Ed courses, videos about what Gen Ed did for..., student focus groups on specific topics,...)

- b. Gen Ed and Covid-19: student survey conversation with colleagues at Stamford
- c. Mentoring: Lack of knowledge about EL
- d. Outreach to Student Organizations
  - We are currently working on a number of initiatives. We will pick up this discussion at the next meeting in the Spring.

#### **Old Business**

- A. TBD

#### **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. URBN 3275W Urban Sociology [W] (#14922/1872) [Revise number for cross listing]
- B. URBN 3276/W Urban Problems [W] (#14920/1870) [Revise number for cross listing]

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 am.**

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott.**