General Education Oversight Committee

February 3, 2021, 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**, **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 11:03 am

1. **Preliminaries**
2. **Welcome and Regrets**
3. **Past and Future**
   A. Minutes of December 2, 2020 meeting were eApproved.

   B. Spring Meeting Schedule
   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. Provost's Competition Winners
   - M. Wagner explained the results of the competition. We received nine submissions and funded a total of six proposals. We also provided an additional $1000 to fund the salary for an undergraduate student of a minority group. Everyone on the selection committee agreed to help provide this additionally requested support.
   - We received a large response for volunteers to serve on the selection committee, and M. Wagner thanked B. Brueggemann for serving.

   B. Course Alignment Project
   - We hosted a series of alignment trainings last week. Subcommittees were told that the most important question is whether the course still aligns with the guidelines.

- M. Wagner asked co-chairs to cross-check the campuses that departments indicated offer the courses against information on the Main Form. Departments frequently indicate that courses are only offered at Storrs when in fact they are being offered at other campuses as well.

C. Delta2GE Update
- A website with information about the proposal, timeline, and a request for feedback is currently being developed.
- The group will be incorporating forums with various stakeholders.

D. Subcommittee Needs Check-In
- The two-year term is coming to a close for the following members: Fabrice Baudoin, Bob Day, Kelly Dennis, Beth Ginsberg, Ali Gokirmak, Suman Majumdar, Tom Scheinfeldt and Eduardo Urios-Aparisi.
- All of these individuals will be approached in regards to re-appointment for a second term except B. Ginsberg, who has already served two consecutive terms and must rotate off. Jason Vokoun will also rotate off at the end of the Spring. Beth and Jason will both be missed.
- Please let us know if you know need additional members or if you have suggestions for new co-chairs.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

a. AAAS 2316/W Asian Theatre and Performance [CA1, CA4, W] (#1955) [New course]
b. CHIN 3280 Networking in China [CA1, CA4] (#3818) [New course]
c. NURS 2175 Global Politics of Childbearing & Reproduction [CA1, CA4-Int] (#3261) [Revise description]

- K. Dennis presented the CA1 report. The subcommittee is still reviewing AAAS 2316/W and CHIN 3280.

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted by unanimous vote (approval of NURS 2175).

B. CA2 Docket

a. NURS 1500 Introduction to Correctional Healthcare [CA2] (#3995) [New course]
b. WGSS 2124 Gender and Globalization [CA2, CA4-Int] (#4094) [Revise prereqs]

C. CA3 Docket (N/A)

D. CA4 Docket

a. AAAS 2316/W Asian Theatre and Performance [CA1, CA4, W] (#1955) [New course]
b. CHIN 3280 Networking in China [CA1, CA4] (#3818) [New course]
c. NURS 2175 Global Politics of Childbearing & Reproduction [CA1, CA4-Int] (#3261) [Revise description]
d. WGSS 2124 Gender and Globalization [CA2, CA4-Int] (#4094) [Revise prereqs]

- M. Ortega presented the CA4 Report. All four courses were recommended for approval.

The CA4 Report was accepted as submitted by unanimous vote (approval of AAAS 2316/W, CHIN 3280, NURS 2175, WGSS 2124).

E. Q Docket

a. MATH 1070Q Mathematics for Business and Economics [Q] (#2214) [Revise catalog copy]
b. MATH 1071Q Calculus for Business and Economics [Q] (#2234) [Revise catalog copy]

- S. Majumdar presented the Q Report. The subcommittee thought the proposed changes will give students more clarity.

The Q Report was accepted as submitted by unanimous vote (approval of MATH 1070Q, MATH 1071Q).

F. W Docket

a. AAAS 2316/W Asian Theatre and Performance [CA1, CA4, W] (#1955) [New course]
b. ANTH 4097W Honors Thesis [W] (#4894) [New course]
c. DGS 4234W Diagnostic Molecular Technologies [W] (#4416) [Revise prereqs]
d. ENGL 3003W Advanced Expository Writing [W] (#2994) [Revise title and prereqs]
e. NURS 3715W Nursing Leadership [W] (#3934) [Revise title]
f. NURS 4230W Quality Improvement and Evidence Based Practice in Nursing [W] (#4001) [Revise prereqs and description]
g. WGSS 3257W Feminist Disability Studies [W] (#4236) [Revise prereqs]
h. WGSS 3270W Masculinities [W] (#4239) [Revise prereqs]
i. WGSS 4994W Senior Seminar [W] (#3117) [Revise description and prereqs]

- L. Gresham presented the W Report. Four courses were approved and W is still communicating with proposers for several others.
- B. Ginsberg noted that they will be reviewing 20 syllabi for the alignment. They have divided this work up among the subcommittee members, but B. Ginsberg and L. Gresham will both review all 20 syllabi.
- The W subcommittee will also be meeting to resolve the issues that W has been tasked with considering. They are hoping to have a report by the last Spring GEOC meeting.
- There was a question from one member about why ENGL 3003W was being reviewed. This course is undergoing substantial revisions and will be like a special topics course.

The W Report was accepted as submitted by unanimous vote (approval of AAAS/DRAM 2136W, DGS 4234W, WGSS 3257W, & WGSS 4994W).

G. EL Docket

a. AH 3021 Environment, Genetics, and Cancer [EL] (#4008) [Add EL]
b. AH 3175E Environmental Health [EL] (#3962) [Revise prereqs]
c. ENVE/EVST/EVST 3110 Brownfield Redevelopment [EL] (#3715) [Add EL]
d. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
e. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]

- J. Vokoun presented the EL Report. The subcommittee is recommending two courses for approval and one for rejection.

- J. Vokoun noted that the EL docket has finally slowed to be more in line with the workload of other subcommittees.
- There was a strong "No" against AH 3021, as it was determined that the course does not have enough of a focus around human-environment interaction. The course is more about genetics and cancer.
- This was a second attempt for NUSC 4250 Public Health Nursing, but in order to move the process along the subcommittee must have a discussion with proposer. The potential for this course to be an EL course has been noted.
- J. Vokoun reached out to the department head for MARN. The department head was going to "light some fires."
- B. Ginsberg questioned how long we can keep MARN 1002/1003 on the docket as they have been on over a year. J. Vokoun noted that we do not have a set date by which we must move on, but he noted that many courses have been moved on after the one-year mark. K. McDermott confirmed that courses can be sent back at a certain point, usually at the end of the Spring if they have been on the docket for a year. This is not a policy, but the precedent was set under E. Schultz.
- J. Vokoun mentioned that these two MARN courses can likely get EL designations. The courses have been taught for 20 years the way they are, though, and we cannot guarantee they will be taught the way they must be for an EL designation, even if we coach the proposers in creating the CARs. We would have to trust that the proposers would teach the courses appropriately rather than just editing the proposals to align with what we want to see. M. Wagner mentioned she is happy to reach out if it is determined to be an appropriate time for that.

The EL Report was accepted as submitted by unanimous vote (approval of ENVE/ENVS/EVST 3310 & AH 3175; decline for AH 3021).

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

6. New Business

A. Revisions to the Procedure for De-Designating Gen Ed Courses

- GEOC now has the right to de-designate courses, so the procedure is being put in place. Senate C&C reviewed the document we sent them and asked the Scholastic Standards Committee for feedback on the process.
- Changes to the de-designation process that were recommended by Scholastic Standards were made to the document. Another section was also added regarding what happens if a department fails to make the changes that they promised to make.
- B. Ginsberg noted that a lot of times the W subcommittee will actually reach out to the proposer prior to reporting to try and bring things into alignment. She also noted that some individuals are unwilling to make changes to their courses. They claim they have been teaching the course the same way for a long time.
- One member noted that a former department head received a notice about realignment but was not provided with information on how to fix the course.
- Do we need to clarify what "evidence" of revision means? Yes, we will do this.

- O. Bayulgen suggested sending these requests for revision to an undergraduate curriculum director in each department. M. Wagner noted that each department functions differently, so it would be difficult to figure out a uniform way to handle this. K. McDermott noted that the department head is ultimately responsible for courses in their department, so the messages need to be sent to them. Curriculum directors can be CCed, but the department head should definitely be on the email.
- One member felt that five attempts to contact a department was too many. They suggested that we should go with three. Scholastic Standards had suggested either three or five. K. McDermott erred on the side of five when drafting the document.
- One committee member who was a department head noted that three seems sufficient, but he also gets 200+ emails a day. He is torn on whether three attempts is enough.
- One member suggested splitting the difference and going with four.
- Members voted on the number, and three was the committee's preference.

S. Majundar motioned to approve the document with the agreed-upon edits. B. Ginsberg seconded. The changes to the document were approved unanimously.

B. Lisa Blansett's Proposal for a Committee on Large Gen Ed Courses
- M. Wagner presented a suggestion from Lisa Blansett about getting a committee together of instructors who teach large Gen Ed courses. A. Gatten indicated that he could provide additional context or information as needed.
- A. Gatten noted that on one hand the effort was about collaborating on interdisciplinary approaches and creating pedagogical networks. The other goal is to look at the bureaucratic end and share ideas across departments on how to handle common issues and challenges.
- One member asked how the group defined a "large" course. A. Gatten explained that they are not necessarily talking about large numbers of students in one section, but about courses that serve a large number students each semester, possibly around 500 students.
- One member wanted to know if the committee was specific to CLAS or university-wide? A. Gatten was not sure and will need to clarify this.
- It was noted that the unionization of graduate students and their contracts are going to intersect with this initiative, so they need to be considered.
- Regional campus perspectives should also be included.
- One member questioned whether all modalities must be consistent across course sections, such as the way in which students are assessed.
- One member noted that his department standardizes large 1000-level courses. He mentioned that it was decided at least 15 years ago that the textbook will be selected by the department and will be used by all sections in the same manner. He believes that departments may already be doing this by-and-large.
- If anyone thinks of anything else or is interested in participating, please contact M. Wagner.

C. 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
e. Suggestions for student initiatives
f. Something related to Delta2GE

- M. Wagner and K. McDermott have discussed the possibility of offering workshops on how to fill out a CAR/propose a course.
- One member noted that First Year Writing started meeting with undergraduates last year because of the pandemic in order to tap into what students understand or experience.
- M. Wagner met with student advisors for Orientation last year and had a great conversation. She conveyed that we want students to be intentional about their Gen Eds rather than just checking them off.
- One member doubted there might be a critical mass of people who want to attend a workshop on proposing courses. There is not really a "curriculum season." Instead, we might consider the idea of a "Gen Ed Mentor" as an on-demand system.
- One member thought that GEOC needed a dedicated person who could attend department meetings and travel to regional campuses. As the member saw it, this would be too big a job for subcommittee members.
- There was some agreement that, especially once the new Gen Ed system is in place, GEOC will need additional support.
- M. Wagner noted that she sent out emails to all Gen Ed instructors to solicit their feedback on their COVID experience. Some cannot wait to get back to in-person classes, and some were surprised that teaching online was not as bad as they thought.
- K. McDermott arranged for a Daily Digest message to go out for the rest of the week reminding departments that they need special permission for their Gen Ed course to be offered as an intensive session.
- K. McDermott also noted that she, M. Wagner, and other curriculum oversight people met in January to discuss changes to the CAR. Among other things, we are hopeful that all intensive session requests will soon go through the main CAR system.

D. Expand Description and/or Criteria for "International" Part of CA4

E. Number of EL Seats

7. Old Business

A. TBD

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. TBD

S. Majumdar motioned to adjourn. K. Dennis seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 am.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott and Pooja Hingorany.