



General Education Oversight Committee

March 15, 2021, 10:30am-12:00pm

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, 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: M. Ortega, J. Vokoun

Guest: Nancy Bilmes

Called to order at 10:31 am

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

A. Minutes of March 3, 2021 meeting.

- There were no edits.

B. Ginsberg motioned to approve the minutes. S. Majumdar seconded. The minutes were approved as submitted with one abstention.

B. Remaining Meetings – Spring 2021

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

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

- There is three weeks between today's meeting and the next one on April 7 due to the later Spring Break.

4. Chair's Report

A. Presentation to Orientation Leaders

- M. Wagner presented to the student orientation leaders who help incoming students. She gave them some information and advice on how to present Gen Ed to first year students.
- Some of the orientation leaders' honest critiques are addressed with the new Gen Eds. M. Wagner gave them a sneak peak of the new website.

B. Delta2GE Update (Website: <https://delta.senate.uconn.edu/>)

- Tom Long and M. Wagner are happy to meet with groups that have ideas.

- Please provide feedback through the feedback feature on the website.
- C. FYW Working Group
- L. Blansett and B. Brueggemann are the co-chairs. They will form a committee to make sure there is a thoughtful process involved in FYW planning.
- D. Senate Update
- The motion on adding an ex-officio member to represent the institutes was put to the Senate. One institute head wanted to see about having more than one member, but it could be risky to do a motion on the floor about this.
 - The Senate passed a motion that the course syllabus must be given to students on the first day of class. The course syllabus and schedule can be separate documents, but both must be given to students on the first day.
- E. Co-Chairs whose Terms are Ending this Spring:
- a. Fabrice Baudoin – Rotating off
 - b. Bob Day – Agreed to reappointment
 - c. Kelly Dennis – Agreed to reappointment
 - d. George Gibson – Rotating off
 - e. Beth Ginsberg – Ineligible for renewal
 - f. Ali Gokirmak – Agreed to reappointment
 - g. Suman Majumdar – Rotating off
 - h. Tom Scheinfeldt – Rotating off
 - i. Kathleen Tonry – Rotating off
 - j. Eduardo Urios-Aparisi – Agreed to reappointment
 - k. Jason Vokoun – Rotating Off
- F. Summary of Co-Chair Needs:
- a. CA1 = None
 - b. CA2 = 1 Co-Chair
 - c. CA3 = 1 Co-Chair
 - d. CA4 = None
 - e. Q = 1 Co-chair
 - f. W = 1 Co-Chair
 - g. EL = 2 Co-Chairs
 - h. SL = None
- One member asked how GEOC will be structured under the new Gen Eds. Will there be co-chairs for each area?
 - We are not entirely sure how oversight of the new Gen Eds will work, but there will be regular co-chair appointments for the near future.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

- a. ARIS/WGSS 1170 Women's Writing in the Contemporary Arab World [CA1, CA4, W] (#3974) [Add

CA1-b, CA4, and W; cross-list with WGSS]

- b. HIST/AAAS 2688/W Foreign Relations of China Since 1949 [CA1, W] (#5414) [New course]
 - K. Dennis presented the report.

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of ARIS/WGSS 1170 & HIST/AAAS 2688/W).

B. CA2 Docket

- a. NURS 1500 Introduction to Correctional Healthcare [CA2] (#3995) [New course]

C. CA3 Docket

- a. MARN/MAST 1001E The Sea Around Us [CA3, EL] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request]

D. CA4 Docket (Attachment)

- a. ENGL 3015W Writing Across Cultures [CA4, W] (#4576) [New course]
 - O. Bayulgen presented the report.

The CA4 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of ENGL 3015W).

E. Q Docket

- a. CHEM 1124Q Fundamentals of General Chemistry I [CA3-Lab, Q] (#4994) [Revise prereqs]
- b. COMM 2010Q Applied Communication Research Methods [Q] (#5137) [Add Course]

F. W Docket

- a. ARE 3261W Writing in Food Policy [W] (#5815) [Revise level]
- b. ARIS/WGSS 1170 Women's Writing in the Contemporary Arab World [CA1, CA4, W] (#3974) [Add CA1-b, CA4, and W; cross-list with WGSS]
- c. DRAM 4135/W Period Studies in Theatre [W] (#3274) [Revise title and description]
- d. ECON 3431/W Public Economics [W] (#5114) [Revise title and description]
- e. ENGL 3015W Writing Across Cultures [CA4, W] (#4576) [New course]
- f. HIST/AAAS 2688/W Foreign Relations of China Since 1949 [CA1, W] (#5414) [New course]
- g. NURS 3715W Nursing Leadership [W] (#3934) [Revise title]
- h. NURS 4230W Quality Improvement and Evidence Based Practice in Nursing [W] (#4001) [Revise prereqs and description]
- i. SOCI/HDFS 3240/W Aging in American Society [CA2, W] (#5215) [Uncross-list with HDFS]
 - B. Ginsberg presented the report.
 - The NURS courses are currently in the process of being adjusted. The subcommittee is hopeful that these two courses will be ready for the next meeting.
 - They are predicting push-back on some of the courses that are just asking for revisions. W is already in touch with the proposers of the courses that are not being approved at the moment.
 - B. Ginsberg explained the process that she and L. Gresham use to review courses with the subcommittee.
 - The subcommittee is still meeting to work on outstanding issues as well as resources for the websites. A "robust digit web toolbox" is currently in the making, which will include items

such as W syllabi that meet the criteria as well as external resources regarding writing in the discipline. This will serve as a resource to which proposers can refer.

- There are discrepancies between the guidelines on our website versus what is on the Writing Center website.
- The co-chairs noted that it was decided almost unanimously that W courses do not need to be exclusively in English. A full report on their discussions will be forthcoming.

The W Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of ARIS/WGSS 1170W & ECON 3431W).

G. EL Docket

- a. MARN/MAST 1001E The Sea Around Us [CA3, EL] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request]
- 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]

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

6. Alignment Reports

A. Q Alignment Report

- S. Majumdar presented the report.
- The committee was unanimous that the course fulfills the Q criteria. It is almost like a math course.

The Q Alignment Report was accepted as submitted (Alignment of PHIL 2211Q).

- M. Wagner mentioned that there were some issues brought to her attention about the Provost's Competition. She will likely bring this up at a future meeting.

7. New Business

A. Guest: Nancy Bilmes, Director of the Center for Career Development – Gen Ed and NACE Competencies

- N. Bilmes introduced herself and then members were asked to introduce themselves.
- N. Bilmes explained what the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) competencies are and what the Center for Career Development has been doing with them.
- The top three motivations for pursuing a bachelor's degree are career successes, requirements for a current or future career, and financial gain.
- N. Bilmes shared some information and resources about "skills for success:"
<https://career.uconn.edu/skills-for-success/>
- There was discussion regarding members' thoughts and suggestions on including these skills in Gen Ed.

- One member asked about an external resource that includes language regarding how to talk about this. The member mentioned a colleague who is resistant to change. Are there any discipline-based resources?
- N. Bilmes noted that a committee is being resurrected within the office to address some of these questions. This committee is looking for volunteers. Involvement could be a one- or two-time thing, and you would not have to permanently be on the committee. If any faculty would like to take part of the committee, they are welcome. Any sort of input is appreciated.
- One member noted that FYW has addressed some of these competencies. The member was wondering if there are deliverables or assessments that indicate that students are meeting these competencies.
- It was noted that there is an ethical component to working with technology.
- There was a discussion of professionalism versus “respectability politics.”
- One important question is how to communicate these goals to the students.
- One member did not think it would work to tell faculty to incorporate these competencies into their courses. They felt that there would be pushback. Can we find a way to help faculty highlight that these are the skills students are already getting in their classes?
- One member noted that ‘how to write an email’ is included in their syllabus. They include a “syllabus quiz” with multiple choice answers about why things like this are important, including points on “professionalism” and good practices.
- Are Career Center members available to do short presentations in classes? Yes. N. Bilmes indicated that their staff usually go into about 100 classes a semester.

B. Aligning the Alignment Process

a. Requiring Regional Campus Syllabi

- There was discussion of how many syllabi we should ask for and from where. There was consensus that we wanted to see syllabi from all regional campuses. One member wanted to see syllabi from all of the instructors who offer a particular course. This might be a huge number, though, and it is likely not feasible.
- One member noted that the proposed “large course” committee might be one venue to begin this task.
- This issue will require a larger conversation.

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

- Nomenclature for New Gen Ed Areas
- 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,...)
- Gen Ed and Covid-19: student survey conversation with colleagues at Stamford
- Mentoring: Lack of knowledge about EL
- Outreach to Student Organizations
- Suggestions for student initiatives
- Something related to Delta2GE

D. Number of EL Seats

8. Old Business

- A. TBD

9. 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

10. Course Action Requests in the Queue

Full-Committee Review

- A. N/A

Requests on Hold

- A. N/A

Requests Awaiting Chair Review

- A. TBD

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen C. P. McDermott and Pooja Hingorany.