



General Education Oversight Committee

April 7, 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, 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:

Guests: Mitchell Green, Anke Finger

Called to order at 11:02 am

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

- A. Minutes of March 3, 2021 meeting.
 - There were no changes suggested.

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

- A. Remaining Meetings – Spring 2021

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

- ☐ Presentation from 2019-20 Grant Winner:

o Cesar Abadia – HRTS 2100W Human Rights and Social Change

4. Presentations from 2019-20 Grant Winners:

- A. Mitchell Green – PHIL 1108E Environmental Philosophy
 - M. Green introduced the course he created for the Provost's Competition. He noted that he uses "specifications grading," and he explained a number of the topics and assignments that students cover in the course. He displayed a pyramid that shows visually how specifications grading works.
 - The course focuses on environmental ethics as well as aesthetics.

- In addition to Storrs, the course is also available at Stamford and Hartford, where it will likely be taught by graduate students.
 - One member noted in the chat: “There are also grading contracts, if anyone is interested in other labor-based/equity-based grading systems. Asao Inoue has written a lot on them.”
 - Another member noted in the chat: “And a couple of our instructors in First-Year Writing have some outstanding outlines/rubrics/processes for grading contracts that have worked really well for their writing courses.”
 - M. Green recommended the book [Specifications Grading by Lisa Nilson](#).
 - There was additional discussion of the basics of specifications grading and what qualifies as specifications grading.
 - GEOC members were complimentary of the course and interested in the specifications grading element.
- B. Anke Finger – CLCS 2010 Media Literacy and Data Ethics
- A. Finger introduced the course she created for the Provost’s Competition. The course deals heavily with media, including how it is produced, the ethics of using it, and the aesthetics of it.
 - A. Finger mentioned that students use media often but do not necessarily understand what is “under the hood,” or how media is made.
 - A. Finger noted in the chat: “This course will introduce students to ‘information literacy’ on the basis of media studies, research methods in the humanities, and media and data ethics. The course will be divided into three interconnected areas that are pivotal to gathering, analyzing and disseminating information in today’s research and data landscapes: 1) What media? 2) Which data? 3) Whose ethics?”
 - A. Finger played a video that she created to promote the course.
 - One of the goals of this course is for students to create a portfolio that is transferrable to other courses, other fields, and even graduate school programs.
 - GEOC members expressed a lot of interest in the course.

5. Chair’s Report

A. Delta2GE Update

- a. Website: <https://delta.senate.uconn.edu/>

Timeline: September 20, 2021: Special Senate Meeting; Voting in October

- b. Forum 1: Tuesday, April 20: 4:30 to 6 pm

Forum 2: Wednesday, April 28: 10-11:30 am

Forum 3: Thursday, April 29: 3 to 4:30 pm

Forum 4: Tuesday, May 4: 1-2:30 pm

Forum 5: Thursday, May 6: 11 am to 12:30 pm

- Feedback on the website and the topics of inquiry is welcome. Delta2GE is hoping to get most feedback by May so that it can be incorporated into the final proposal. Please share the URL widely: www.delta.senate.uconn.edu

B. Senate Update

- The motion to add an ex-officio member from the social diversity institutes passed with a minor edit to make it more clear that only one person would represent all the institutes.

C. LTE Speaker Series: A Discussion with Dr. Pam Eddinger, Friday, April 9 at 9 am

- Pam Eddinger is a fantastic speaker. She is the president of Bunker Hill College in Massachusetts and is a leader in thinking about inclusivity and working with students from diverse backgrounds. Please come if you can.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

- a. CLCS 2010 Media Literacy and Data Ethics [CA1, CA4-Int] (#6015) [New course]
 - b. HIST/AAAS 3712 The Middle East Crucible [CA1, CA4] (#4954) [Add cross-listing]
- J. Terni presented the report.
 - The committee declined CLCS 2010 for a number of reasons. The decision was unanimous.
 - The other course was approved even though the subcommittee felt that it could have had a better justification for various CA1 criteria.
 - It was noted that GEOC needs to put more standard procedures in place for when subcommittees decline a course.

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of HIST/AAAS 3712; declined for CLCS 2010).

B. CA2 Docket

- a. NURS 1500 Introduction to Correctional Healthcare [CA2] (#3995) [New course]
- b. POLS 3413W International Security [CA2, W] (#5734) [New course]

C. CA3 Docket

- a. ENGL 2614 Writing in Algorithms [CA3] (#4375) [New course]
- b. GEOG 2410 New Digital Worlds of Geographic Information Science [CA3] (#6176) [Revise level and description]
- c. MARN/MAST 1001E The Sea Around Us [CA3, EL] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request]
 - G. Gibson shared some issues that came up with the CA3 subcommittee about the courses they reviewed. The ENGL course is very tech-heavy. It is really a

programming course. He noted that some subcommittee members felt that this was not in the spirit of what CA3 is really about.

- One member suggested going on the Delta website and seeing if the course would qualify under the new Gen Eds; this might help direct the decision.
- G. Gibson noted that he was thinking along these lines, but more in the sense of whether he would be comfortable with this being the only course that students take in this area, since under the new Gen Eds they would only take one course in each area. At this time, he would not be comfortable with this being the only course.
- One member agreed that programming and scripting is not, in and of itself, characteristic of CA3.
- One member questioned the place of these more technical topics in Gen Ed. Where do computational methods go? If not in CA3, do they go in Q? If not in Q, then where? Do these courses just not belong in Gen Ed? It was noted that computer science is largely not incorporated into Gen Ed, but maybe it should be.
- A number of GEOC members noted that these are good questions to ask, as we do not want CA3 to be “watered down.”
- It was noted that MARN/MAST 1001E was approved, but the approval of this course brought up a conversation regarding intersession session courses.
- One member reiterated concerns about enrollment capacity for intensive session courses that they had shared previously in an email chain.

D. CA4 Docket

- CLCS 2010 Media Literacy and Data Ethics [CA1, CA4-Int] (#6015) [New course]
 - HIST/AAAS 3712 The Middle East Crucible [CA1, CA4] (#4954) [Add cross-listing]
 - POLS 3040 Power, Politics, and Art [CA4-Int] (#5874) [Add CA4-Int]
- M. Ortega presented the report.

The CA4 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of CLCS 2010, HIST/AAAS 3712, & POLS 3040).

E. Q Docket

- CHEM 1124Q Fundamentals of General Chemistry I [CA3-Lab, Q] (#4994) [Revise prereqs]
 - COMM 2010Q Applied Communication Research Methods [Q] (#5137) [Add Course]
 - GEOG 3500Q Geographic Data Analysis [Q] (#6036) [Revise credits]
- S. Majumdar presented the report.

The Q Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of CHEM 1124Q & GEOG 3500Q).

F. W Docket

- ARE 3261W Writing in Food Policy [W] (#5815) [Revise level]

- b. ARE 3440W Writing in Environmental and Resource Policy [W] (#5836) [Revise level and description]
 - c. DRAM 4135/W Period Studies in Theatre [W] (#3274) [Revise title and description]
 - d. ENGL 3015W Writing Across Cultures [CA4, W] (#4576) [New course]
 - e. HIST/AAAS 2688/W Foreign Relations of China Since 1949 [CA1, W] (#5414) [New course]
 - f. NURS 3715W Nursing Leadership [W] (#3934) [Revise title]
 - g. NURS 4230W Quality Improvement and Evidence Based Practice in Nursing [W] (#4001) [Revise prereqs and description]
 - h. POLS 3413W International Security [CA2, W] (#5734) [New course]
 - i. SOCI/HDFS 3240/W Aging in American Society [CA2, W] (#5215) [Uncross-list with HDFS]
- L. Gresham presented the report, and B. Ginsberg followed up with some additional information. The W subcommittee is moving five courses forward.

The W Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of NURS 3715W, NURS 4230W, POLS 3413W, ENGL 3015W, SOCI/HDFS 3240/W).

G. EL Docket

- a. ARE 3434E Environmental and Resource Policy [EL] (#5834) [Revise level and description]
- b. MARN/MAST 1001E The Sea Around Us [CA3, EL] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request]
- c. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
- d. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

- a. CHIN 1111 Elementary Chinese I [SL] (#5537) [Revise prereqs]
- M. Back presented the report. She explained conversations she and E. Urios-Aparisi had with both the proposer and J. Terni, the department head. The SL committee was satisfied that this change did not affect students' ability to enroll in a suitable language course.

The SL Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of CHIN 1111).

7. New Business

- A. Discussion of Intensive Session Courses
- B. Provost Competition

- C. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- D. Aligning the Alignment Process
 - a. Requiring Regional Campus Syllabi
- E. PR and Mentoring Campaign for Gen Ed in the Spring:
 - a. Nomenclature for New Gen Ed Areas
 - b. 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,...)
 - c. Gen Ed and Covid-19: student survey conversation with colleagues at Stamford
 - d. Mentoring: Lack of knowledge about EL
 - e. Outreach to Student Organizations
 - f. Suggestions for student initiatives
 - g. Something related to Delta2GE
- F. 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