



General Education Oversight Committee

April 26, 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:

Guests: César Abadia, Peter Baldwin

Called to order at 10:30 am

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

- A. Minutes of April 7, 2021 meeting.
 - There were no edits suggested.

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

- B. Future Meetings: Watch for Doodle Poll for Fall 2021
 - Please keep an eye out for this.

4. Chair's Report

- A. GEOC Annual Report
 - The report is in the meeting packet if members would like to see it.
 - We would like to put procedures in place to make sure that proposers are either engaged or invited to GEOC to speak and make their case if the course is in danger of being denied. This would be followed by a discussion and a vote by GEOC members after the proposer leaves the meeting.
 - This process would not be a critique of subcommittees, but rather a review to see whether anything can be done about the issues with the courses or not.
 - This process will start next semester, so if any courses are denied at today's meeting they will be tabled until next semester when this process will start.

- The purpose of this process is not to push proposals through, but instead it gives proposers the opportunity to engage more with the process.
- One member expressed support for this proposed procedure.

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

- Please sign up to attend a forum to give feedback.
- These forums will be in the form of an informal and short presentation with rationale, and will then be opened up for questions and conversation.
- This is an ongoing process. Please advertise as this as widely as possible.

C. Senate Update

- The proposal will be presented in the September Senate and voted on in October.
- One member asked about budget issues. There is tension and concern related to trying to promote the new Gen Eds when there is a budget issue.
- Does the proposed budget include the extra CLAS requirements? No.
- This cannot be on the backs of the faculty, but contract negotiations with the faculty union are lacking raises for the near future.
- We must make sure the upper administration is going to back this. This represents years of work.

D. LTE Update

- Some of the same budget issues exist with the LTE initiative.

E. Acknowledgement of Members leaving GEOC:

Fabrice Baudoin

Kun Chen

George Gibson

Beth Ginsberg

Suman Majumdar

Tom Scheinfeldt

Kathleen Tonry

Jason Vokoun

- M. Wagner presented a slide show to thank the members who are leaving.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

- PHIL 1106 Non-western and Comparative Philosophy [CA1, CA4-Int] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request] – **NEW**
 - K. Dennis presented the report.

The CA1 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of PHIL 1106).

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. URBN 1400/W Site and Sound: Understanding Cities Through Popular Music [CA2, CA4, W] (#5954) [New course] – **NEW**
 - B. Day presented the report and explained the process with NURS 1500. The other two courses were easy approves.
 - The decision was to decline CA1 for NURS 1500 so that it can be sent back for revision. The goal is to have this course running for next semester.

The CA2 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of POLS 3413W & URBN 1400/W; declined for NURS 1500).

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]
 - G. Gibson gave a brief explanation of the issues the CA3 subcommittee had with the courses.
 - Regarding ENGL 2614, it was mentioned that this would dilute the science requirement for general education as we move from modes of subject matter to inquiry.
 - G. Gibson stated in the chat, “In this example, empirical means you try a code fragment and *see what happens* and correct it if it does not work. This is a paraphrase from the rationale. Theoretical would mean that you study the code fragment to determine if it should work.”
 - We will invite G. Gibson back to a GEOG meeting to discuss this matter in the future.

D. CA4 Docket

- a. PHIL 1106 Non-western and Comparative Philosophy [CA1, CA4-Int] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request] – **NEW**
- b. URBN 1400/W Site and Sound: Understanding Cities Through Popular Music [CA2, CA4, W] (#5954) [New course] – **NEW**
 - M. Ortega presented the report.
 - There was some concern regarding summer course enrollment being low for PHIL 1106 which could affect group projects, an important part of this course. If the course has enough enrollment to work on the group projects then there should be no issues.

The CA4 Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of PHIL 1106 & URBN 1400/W).

E. Q Docket

- a. COMM 2010Q Applied Communication Research Methods [Q] (#5137) [Add Course]
 - This course is being tabled for the time being so that a conversation can be had with the proposers due to the narrow criteria that currently exists.
 - S. Majumdar noted that the Q subcommittee will undergo a complete turnover next academic year, so the conversation moving forward will happen under a new subcommittee.

F. W Docket

- a. 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. GEOG 4000W Capstone Seminar in Geography [W] (#6779) [Revise prereqs] – **NEW**
- e. HIST/AAAS 2688/W Foreign Relations of China Since 1949 [CA1, W] (#5414) [New course]
- f. URBN 1400/W Site and Sound: Understanding Cities Through Popular Music [CA2, CA4, W] (#5954) [New course] – **NEW**
- g. WGSS 3269W Gender, Sexuality and Social Movements [W] (#6576) [New course] – **NEW**
 - B. Ginsberg presented the report. She noted that the W subcommittee has had procedures in place for a long time to engage with proposers.

The W Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of ARE 3261W, DRAM 4135/W, URBN 1400/W, GEOG 4000W, HIST/AAAS 2688/W).

G. EL Docket

- a. ARE 3434E Environmental and Resource Policy [EL] (#5834) [Revise level and description]
- 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]
 - K. Tonry presented the report. The MARN courses represent the tension in EL, where many people believe basic courses on the natural world should count as EL. We are awaiting more supplemental information regarding both MARN 1002 and 1003.

The EL Report was accepted as submitted (Approval of ARE 3434E).

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

6. Writing (W) Course Recommendations Report

- This business was deferred.

7. Presentations from 2019-20 Grant Winners:

A. Cesar Abadia – HRTS 2100W Human Rights and Social Change

- C. Abadia introduced himself and his course.
- The course is currently running. The course was originally a Special Topics course without the W designation. The course went from about 16 students to 8, which was challenging. The official course version is better.
- C. Abadia mentioned that this course is offered as a single standing HRTS course, is very interdisciplinary, and can be taught by different professors of the Human Rights Institute.

- This is the instructor's first time teaching a W course, so he needs to calibrate the pace of the course and provide more guidance. There are a number of peer-editing exercises embedded into the course, however the instructor mentioned that he needs to be clear about what he expects during the drafting process. He mentioned that he is encouraging students to fill out SET surveys for ample feedback.
- One GEOC member noted that he was surprised to find that UConn doesn't buy the Blackboard peer-editing add-on and that this would facilitate the peer-editing process. This member also mentioned lobbying Peter Diplock to buy this feature.
- One GEOC member noted that the instructor can always reach out to the W subcommittee, as they are happy to provide some advice. The W Center can also provide guidance and offers a seminar on how to instruct a W course. Another committee member seconded this.
- One GEOC member commented on equity in W classrooms. They noted the tension between requiring "white writing," but also making sure there is some kind of standard writing. It was suggested to look more into "linguistic justice." K. Tonry presented some resources related to this for more information (<https://ritm.initiative.uconn.edu/narratives/>).

B. Peter Baldwin – 2XXXX History of Technology

- P. Baldwin introduced himself and his course. P. Baldwin's goal was to diversify the topics he teaches to undergraduates.
- The course is aimed at being a 2000-level course with a W alternative.
- The history department needs to reach out to people in the sciences to draw people in who don't care about wars and politics, etc.
- P. Baldwin wants to offer it every year or every other year. He taught a prototype of the course last Spring. A big component of the class is a term paper. This course is not taught as a W course, but it does include a lot of writing. Students were really interested in the paper and getting to explore topics they liked. He mentioned receiving a few papers on guns.
- The instructor mentioned that some of the discussions were great, even after shifting to an online format.
- The instructor mentioned how he rethought the course in the Spring and has a pretty good idea of what he wants to do now in regards to potentially teaching the course in person.
- One member asked if "in America" in the case of this course refers to the US or all the countries in North and South America. P. Baldwin agreed that it should be "in the United States."

8. New Business

A. Discussion of Intensive Session Courses

- One member discussed their concerns with accessibility for intensive session (IS) courses. We need to make sure that we're providing resources for all students to access Gen Ed IS courses. We also need to ensure that the accessibility is explicitly mentioned in the syllabus, i.e. video captions. Because of the length of these courses, there is not a lot of room for flexibility.
- One member noted that the video lecture captioning issue is applicable to all online courses. Also, this member had a student with a learning disability at one point and the IS format did not

allow easily for accommodations. As instructors, we cannot advise a student not to take an IS course, we must work to make it accessible for them.

- One member mentioned individually meeting with the students to see how they can be supported and asked if we should take a second pass at all intersession courses to see if it is possible to make them accessible. Should CSD review these courses as well?
- Another member agreed that if we take on reviewing courses for accommodability that would be too much for GEOC.

9. Old Business

- A. Aligning the Alignment Process
 - a. Requiring Regional Campus Syllabi
- B. 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
- C. Number of EL Seats

10. 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