General Education Oversight Committee
Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 10:00am-11:30am
Via WebEx
Meeting Minutes

*Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:*
Guest: Beth Ginsberg

Called to order at 10:02 am

1. Welcome and Regrets
   A. Regrets: Brenda Brueggemann
   B. Welcome New GEOC Members
      a. Keith Conrad
      b. Richard Dunn
      c. Linda Halgunseth
      d. Tania Huedo-Medina
      e. Andy Jolly-Ballantine
      f. Eleanor Ouimet
      g. Annelie Skoog
         • M. Wagner introduced new members and facilitated a general introduction.

2. Past and Future
   A. Minutes of April 26, 2021 meeting.
      K. Dennis motioned to approve. M. Ortega seconded. The Minutes were accepted as submitted with three abstentions.
   
   B. Future Meetings:
      Mon. September 13, 1:00pm-2:30pm
      Wed. September 29, 10:00am-11:30am
      Mon. October 11, 1:00pm-2:30pm
      Wed. October 27, 10:00am-11:30am
      Mon. November 8, 1:00pm-2:30pm
      Wed. December 1, 10:00am-11:30am
3. Chair’s Report

A. Senate and Delta2GE Update (Website: https://delta.senate.uconn.edu/)
   • M. Wagner gave a brief overview of the taskforce’s work. Changes were made over the summer based on feedback. The changes will appear on the website shortly, and there will be a special Senate meeting on September 20, 2021 to introduce and discuss the proposal.
   • Right now the plan is to have course navigators who will help departments transition from the old Gen Eds to the new ones.

B. Graduate W Course
   • We got an inquiry over the summer about adding a W to a graduate course. As it turns out, a W grad course already exists, so we may see more.

C. 2021-2022 Preview of GEOC Business
   a. Provost’s Competition, Proposer Workshop
   b. Alignment
   c. FYW Working Group
   d. Q Requirements – Volunteers for Co-Chair with Suman Majumdar
      • M. Wagner gave a brief overview of the upcoming items.
      • We are looking for a volunteer to serve as a Co-chair with Suman Majundar on the Q taskforce to revise the Q criteria.

4. Review of GEOC Policies and Procedures
   • M. Wagner briefly reviewed a list of GEOC Co-Chair responsibilities and procedures.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket
   a. AFRA/HIST 3752 History of Pre-colonial Africa [CA1, CA4-Int] (#1991) [Revise level]
   b. CLCS 2010 Media Literacy and Data Ethics [CA1, CA4-Int] (#6015) [Returned by Senate C&C for consultation with proposer]
   c. ENGL 2107 The British Empire, Slavery, andResistance [CA1] (#4315) [New course]
   d. HIST 1805 East Asian History Through Hanzi Characters [CA1, CA4] (#6636) [Revise title]
   e. INTD 3260 The Bible [CA1] (#6938) [Revise title]

B. CA2 Docket
   a. URBN 3400E Urban Parks and Sustainable Cities [CA2, EL] (#6656) [New course]

C. CA3 Docket
   a. ANTH 2200 Race and Human Biological Diversity [CA3, CA4] (#7157) [Adding CA3 and CA4]
   b. ENGL 2614 Writing in Algorithms [CA3] (#4375) [New course]
   c. GEOG 2410 New Digital Worlds of Geographic Information Science [CA3] (#6176) [Revise level and description]
D. CA4 Docket
   a. AFRA/HIST 3752 Precolonial Africa [CA1, CA4-Int] (#1991) [Revise level]
   b. ANTH 2200 Race and Human Biological Diversity [CA3, CA4] (#7157) [Adding CA3 and CA4]
   c. HIST 1805 East Asian History Through Hanzi Characters [CA1, CA4] (#6636) [Revise title]

E. Q Docket
   a. COMM 2010Q Applied Communication Research Methods [Q] (#5137) [Add Course]
   b. MARN 3003Q Environmental Reaction and Transport [Q] (#7019) [Revise number, title, and description]

F. W Docket
   a. AFRA 4997W Senior Thesis in Africana Studies [W] (#6837) [New course]
   b. ARE 3440W Writing in Environmental and Resource Policy [W] (#5836) [Revise level and description]
   c. WGSS 3269W Gender, Sexuality and Social Movements [W] (#6576) [New course]
   d. MUSI 3421W Music in World Cultures [W] (#6797) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]

G. EL Docket
   a. MARN 1002 Introduction to Oceanography [CA3, EL] (#15079/1892) [Revise description, add EL]
   b. MARN 1003 Introduction to Oceanography with Laboratory [CA3-L, EL] (#15078/1891) [Revise description, add EL]
   c. URBN 3400E Urban Parks and Sustainable Cities [CA2, EL] (#6656) [New course]

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

6. Writing (W) Course Recommendations
   • L. Gresham, O. Hiob-Bansal, and Beth Ginsberg presented the work of the W subcommittee from last year.

Questions about Proposed Change 1: All W courses can be taken in another language.
   • One member asked about whether Sign Language counted as a language. Yes, a W course can be in Sign Language. One was, in fact, approved a couple years ago.
   • One member asked in the chat, “Do the writing expectations and styles differ in different languages?”
   • One member noted in the chat, “As Head of LCL, students already do take W's in foreign languages – it’s a requirement for all [LCL] majors, but they should do one course in English.”
   • One member asked about computer language. Does coding count as a language?
   • It was noted in the chat that, “At one point statistics was allowed as a substitute for languages. Is that still the case?”
• One member asked in the chat, “Can a student propose an independent study/directed study that allowed them to otherwise meet all the other requirements of the W course in a language not offered at UConn?” Only if a W Independent Study existed within a specific department, but W shells in this type of course do not currently exist.

Questions about Proposed Change 2: Word count added to page count.
• One member questioned whether it should say *and* a minimum of 4500 words, not *or*.
• Maybe a minimum number of words per page should be added? The issue of figures and charts taking up space on pages was also noted.
• One member noted in the chat, “If an instructor is accepting 15 pp of 100 words then the problem is not in the [W] description.”

Questions about Proposed Change 3: All Variable Topics need to be reviewed.
• One member asked in the chat, “If these recommendations are enacted, will all W courses be required to resubmit their syllabi for review?” For Variable Topics Ws, yes.
• One member asked in the chat, “Roughly how many departments are offering variable topics courses as W courses?”
• One member asked in the chat, “Is ‘writing instruction’ defined somewhere?”

Questions about Proposed Change 4: The syllabus must clearly delineate plans for writing instruction.
• One member asked in the chat, “Is there a minimum on the instruction hours?” L. Gresham noted that they discussed this but decided against it at this time.
• One member asked if departments will get more credit for teaching these courses.

Questions about Proposed Change 5: Instructors should provide feedback.
• One member asked in the chat, “Is ‘feedback’ defined somewhere?”
• One member noted in the chat, “W courses are very instruction-intensive. We need to consider a carrot for W courses. Let’s consider a way to award departments for W courses.”

7. New Business
   A. Discussion of Intensive Session Courses

8. 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

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. HDFS 3240W Aging in American Society [W] (#3481) [Dropping W version]
      • There was a question as to whether it would be easier to keep the course so the department does not have to re-add it later if they change their mind. It was noted that the Registrar prefers to keep the catalog clean of unused courses.
      • There was a question about the availability of W courses. We do monitor numbers, but we do not have a way to force departments to offer Ws. At this point we can only encourage.
      • It was noted that the timing for all this is bad. It is difficult to ask instructors to develop courses, especially during the pandemic. Right now the stick – as opposed to the carrot – is the more effective option for administration.
      • One member issued a reminder that the regional campuses need EL courses.
   J. Terni motioned to approve. M. Ortega seconded. The motion to drop was approved unanimously.

Requests on Hold
   A. N/A

Requests Awaiting Chair Review
   A. N/A

   B. Day motioned to adjourn. M. Ortega seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.