



General Education Oversight Committee
Monday, October 11, 2021 at 1:00pm-2:30pm
Via WebEx
Meeting Minutes

*Members in **BOLD** were in attendance:*

Manuela Wagner – Chair, (Karen McDermott – Admin), Michele Back, Oksan Bayulgen, Lisa Blansett, Brenda Brueggemann, Jason Chang (Ex-Officio), Keith Conrad, Robert Day, Kelly Dennis, Richard Dunn, Alex Gatten, Ali Gokirmak, Lori Gresham, Linda Halgunseth, Oliver Hiob, Tania Huedo-Medina, Morty Ortega, Eleanor Ouimet, Annelie Skoog, Jennifer Terni, Kathleen Tonry, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Suzanne Wilson (Ex-Officio)

Called to order at 1:02pm.

1. Welcome and Regrets

2. Past and Future

A. Minutes of September 29, 2021 meeting.

O. Bayulgen motioned to approve. M. Ortega seconded. The minutes were accepted as submitted unanimously.

B. Future Meetings:

Wed. October 27, 10:00am-11:30am

Mon. November 8, 1:00pm-2:30pm

Wed. December 1, 10:00am-11:30am

3. Upcoming Deadlines

A. Spring Registration Begins (October 25) – Any courses approved this meeting will go to the University Senate on November 1. After that, courses must wait until the December 6 Senate.

B. Catalog Deadline (February 5) – The absolute final GEOC meeting to approve courses is December 1.

4. Chair's Report

A. Senate and Delta2GE Update

a. Implementation Motion

b. By-Law Revision Motion

- Send comments to K. McDermott and S. Wilson.

B. 2021-2022 GEOC Business

a. Provost's Competition:

i The CFP has been released. [Please share with colleagues.](#)

ii Information Sessions: Tuesday, November 2 – 10:00am-11:30am

Thursday, November 4 – 2:30pm-4:00pm

- Please share the CFP widely.

b. Alignment: Course Packets have gone out (See attached list of courses by Area)

- K. McDermott gave an overview of the alignment process.

- One member wondered how departments are chosen for Alignment. We have a rotating 6-year schedule.
- c. FYW Working Group
- M. Wagner just found out today that the group will undertake their task this year.

5. Charge to the Q Working Group

- Will the Q competency need to change if we get the new Gen Eds? No, the Task Force decided to leave the competencies much the same.
- There was a question about how we know instructors will actually do what they say they are doing. This discussion was deferred until after the vote.

K. Conrad motioned to approve the charge to the Q Working Group. M. Ortega seconded. The motion was approved with one abstention.

- The committee picked up the discussion of how we know instructors are doing what they say they are doing.
- One member asked if we can we get more materials so we know what instructors are actually doing.
- One member noted that GEOC is just one part of the review. Some of this is on departments. There was concern about GEOC getting “too into the weeds.”
- One member suggested that too much enforcement would infringe on academic freedom and different pedagogies.
- The Alignment process is actually designed to do this kind of assessment. Beyond this, faculty may be justly upset with GEOC for overstepping.
- One member suggested that there is only so much that we can review. They may be an expert in W, but they are not an expert in all the disciplines for which they received W CARs.
- In the chat, “We also have to keep committee members' labor in mind, as well.”
- One member asked if faculty are reminded that they are teaching a Gen Ed course. Yes. Faculty teaching Gen Ed courses receive an email each semester reminding them about the criteria.

6. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

Older

- CLCS 2010 Media Literacy and Data Ethics [CA1, CA4-Int] (#6015) [Returned by Senate C&C for consultation with proposer]
- ENGL/AMST 3280W Race and the Scientific Imagination [CA1, CA4, W] (#6377) [Add course]
- ENGL/HEJS 3269 Holocaust Memoir [CA1, CA4] (#6019) [Revise title and add cross-listing]

Discussion

- K. Dennis presented the report.

The CA1 Report was approved as submitted (Approval of ENGL/HEJS 3269, ENGL/AMST 3280W).

B. CA2 Docket

New

- NURS 1500 Introduction to Correctional Healthcare (#8584) [Add CA2]

Older

- SOCI 1701(W) Society in Global Perspective [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#7864) [Add W]
- SOCI 2701E Sustainable Societies [CA2, EL] (#7603) [Revise prerequisites]
- SOCI 2705E Sociology of Food [CA2, EL] (#7604) [Revise prerequisites]

- d. SOCI 2709E Society and Climate Change [CA2, EL] (#7744) [Add non-W version]
- e. SOCI 2709WE Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#7565) [Revise prerequisites]
- f. SOCI 3823(W) The Sociology of Law: Global and Comparative Perspectives [CA2, CA4-Int, W] (#7623) [Revise prereqs, add W]

C. CA3 Docket

Older

- 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]

Discussion

- Both A. Gokirmak and A. Skoog presented the report.
- It was noted that some GEOG courses lean more toward science, while others incorporate the human perspective and are thus more social science. This GEOG course tries to do both.
- It was noted that the GEOG course is already approved for CA3, so removing the CA3 at this point would involve activating the 'de-designation' procedure we recently put in place. In light of this, members were inclined to give the GEOG course the benefit of the doubt.
- One member felt that the philosophical/ethical questions that ANTH 2200 seems to ask are important. Over time, courses become more cross-disciplinary.
- In the chat, one member noted of ANTH 2200, "This course matches the definition of Science and Technology for Gen Ed, in my opinion."
- One member felt that courses like this on race are important.
- One member noted that if we were to put aside issues of ethics and equity, this class addresses the question of what happens when you approach a question with 'bad science.' It serves an important lesson.
- One member felt the ANTH title needed to be clearer on what the course was handling. In the chat: "Course development and title. I'm afraid students of color will see the title and think 'eugenics' (which I realize is *not* the goal of the course, if anything it is the opposite)."
- One member mused on how other fields at UConn would address the content. The course appears to be mostly about "blackness." It might be a good cross-list with AFRA. The study of race is not just about non-whites. The course might be stronger if it was more explicit about the racial differences it is exploring and then approach one of the institutes about a cross-list. The member saw a real advantage in making those connections.
- One member noted that they did not disagree that the ANTH course is valuable. But does the course contain what the university considers "science?"
- It was noted in the chat, "The syllabus bibliography also addresses transgender & sexuality."
- It was noted in the chat, "There is a good balance between medical journal articles that address the issues and cultural readings, such as NYT and The Atlantic."
- One member noted that, in general, the CAR form leaves a lot to the eye of the beholder. Proposers do not clearly say, "I am doing X, and you can see this here when I do Y."
- It was noted in the chat, "If the majority of the case studies are on indigenous communities then it should be couched in a larger field of Native American and Indigenous studies - The contact here at UConn would be Sandy Grande."
- It was noted in the chat, "The kinds of outlining objectives and how the assigned learning materials address/align with those objectives is a CETL area of expertise. While it might make things easier to follow in the CAR, it is a pedagogy technique and I'm not sure it belongs in the CAR. Ideally these would be addressed in the syllabus."

GEOC split the question on the CA3 Report.

On the question of GEOG 2410, the committee voted to approve unanimously.

**On the question of ANTH 2200, the committee voted to approve with two abstentions.
ENGL 2614 is on hold pending consultation with the proposer.**

D. CA4 Docket

New

- a. MUSI 3421W Music in World Cultures [CA4, W] (#6797) [Revise title, description, and prereqs]

Older

- a. ANTH 2200 Race and Human Biological Diversity [CA3, CA4] (#7157) [Adding CA3 and CA4]
b. SOCI 1701(W) Society in Global Perspective [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#7864) [Add W]
c. SOCI 2501/W Sociology of Intolerance and Injustice [CA4, W] (#7640) [Revise prerequisites]
d. SOCI 2503/W Prejudice and Discrimination [CA4, W] (#7621) [Revise prerequisites]
e. SOCI 3601/W Sociology of Gender [CA4, W] (#7344) [Revise prereqs]
f. SOCI 3823(W) The Sociology of Law: Global and Comparative Perspectives [CA2, CA4-Int, W] (#7623) [Revise prereqs, add W]
g. SOCI/AAAS 3221(W) Sociological Perspectives on Asian American Women [CA4, W] (#7844) [Revise number and prereqs, Add W]
h. SOCI/AFRA/ HRTS 3505/W White Racism [CA4] (#7622) [Revise number and prereqs]
i. SOCI/WGSS 3621/W Sociology of Sexualities [CA4, W] (#7642) [Revise number]

Discussion

- O. Bayulgen and R. Dunn presented the report.
- One member noted in the chat, "We should try to keep a light hand in terms of asking for revisions - if the correspondence is clear, I think we should let it go. Only when the alignment is not obvious should we intervene."

The CA4 Report was approved as submitted. (Approval of ANTH 2200, MUSI 3421W, SOCI 1701/W, SOCI 2501/W, SOCI 2503/W, SOCI 3601/W, SOCI 3823[W], SOCI/AAAS 3221[W], SOCI/WGSS 3621/W, SOCI, AFRA, HRTS 3505/W).

E. Q Docket

Older

- 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]
c. SOCI 3211Q Quantitative Methods in Social Research [Q] (#7641) [Revise prerequisites]

F. W Docket

New

- a. ENGL 3509W Studies in Individual Writers [W] (#7964) [Add W Version]

Older

- a. AFRA 4997W Senior Thesis in Africana Studies [W] (#6837) [New course]
b. ENGLW 4613 Advanced Study: LGBTQIA+ Literature [W] (#6020) [Revise title and description]
c. SOCI 1701(W) Society in Global Perspective [CA2, CA4-INT, W] (#7864) [Add W]
d. SOCI 2275/W Social Well-Being [W] (#7117) [Revise prerequisites]
e. SOCI 2301/W Criminology [W] (#7500) [Revise description]
f. SOCI 2501/W Sociology of Intolerance and Injustice [CA4, W] (#7640) [Revise prerequisites]
g. SOCI 2503/W Prejudice and Discrimination [CA4, W] (#7621) [Revise prerequisites]
h. SOCI 2709WE Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#7565) [Revise prerequisites]
i. SOCI 2907/W City Life [W] (#7602) [Revise prerequisites]

- j. SOCI 3251/W Social Theory [W] (#7340) [Revise description and restrictions]
- k. SOCI 3271(W) Topics in the Sociology of Culture [W] (#7501) [Revise number, add W]
- l. SOCI 3307/W Drugs and Society [W] (#7341) [Revise number and prerequisites]
- m. SOCI 3315/W Juvenile Delinquency [W] (#7282) [Revise number, level, and description]
- n. SOCI 3351/W Society and the Individual [W] (#7564) [Revise number and prereqs]
- o. SOCI 3407/W Energy, Environment, and Society [W] (#7644) [Revise number, prereqs, and description]
- p. SOCI 3429/W Sociological Perspectives on Poverty [W] (#7360) [Revise number, description, and prereqs]
- q. SOCI 3451/W Sociology of Health [W] (#7342) [Revise number and prereqs]
- r. SOCI 3457/W Sociology of Mental Illness [W] (#7343) [Revise number, prereqs, and description]
- s. SOCI 3471/W Sociology of Education [W] (#7283) [Revise number and restrictions]
- t. SOCI 3521/W Sociology of Religion [W] (#7542) [Revise number and prereqs]
- u. SOCI 3601/W Sociology of Gender [CA4, W] (#7344) [Revise prereqs]
- v. SOCI 3801/W Political Sociology [W] (#7563) [Revise prereqs]
- w. SOCI 3821/W Social Movements and Social Change [W] (#7600) [Revise number and prereqs]
- x. SOCI 3823(W) The Sociology of Law: Global and Comparative Perspectives [CA2, CA4-Int, W] (#7623) [Revise prereqs, add W]
- y. SOCI/AAAS 3221(W) Sociological Perspectives on Asian American Women [CA4, W] (#7844) [Revise number and prereqs, Add W]
- z. SOCI/AASI/HRTS 3222(W) Asian Indian Women: Activism and Social Change [W] (#7520) [Revise number and prereqs, Add W]
- aa. SOCI/AFRA 3501/W Ethnicity and Race [W] (#7566) [Revise number and prereqs]
- bb. SOCI/HRTS 3421/W Class, Power & Inequality [W] (#7561) [Revise number and prereqs]
- cc. SOCI/HRTS 3831(W) Human Rights in the United States [W] (#7560) [Revise number and prereqs, Add W]
- dd. SOCI/HRTS 3837/W Sociology of Global Human Rights [W] (#7562) [Revise number]
- ee. SOCI/URBN 3901/W Urban Sociology [W] (#7620) [Revise number]
- ff. SOCI/WGSS 3453/W Women and Health [W] (#7580) [Revise number and prereqs]
- gg. SOCI/WGSS 3621/W Sociology of Sexualities [CA4, W] (#7642) [Revise number]

Discussion

- L. Gresham presented the report.

The W Report was approved as submitted (Approval of ENGL/AMST 3280W).

G. EL Docket

- a. SOCI 2701E Sustainable Societies [CA2, EL] (#7603) [Revise prerequisites]
- b. SOCI 2705E Sociology of Food [CA2, EL] (#7604) [Revise prerequisites]
- c. SOCI 2709E Society and Climate Change [CA2, EL] (#7744) [Add non-W version]
- d. SOCI 2709WE Society and Climate Change [CA2, W, EL] (#7565) [Revise prerequisites]

Discussion

- M. Ortega presented the report.

The EL Report was approved as submitted (Approval of SOCI 2701E, SOCI 2705E, SOCI 2709E, SOCI 2709WE).

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

7. Writing (W) Course Recommendations (Continued)

8. New Business

Discussion of Intensive Session Courses

- a. Enrollment caps

9. Old Business (on hold)

A. Aligning the Alignment Process

- a. Requiring Regional Campus Syllabi

B. 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. Mentoring: Lack of knowledge about EL
- c. Outreach to Student Organizations
- d. Suggestions for student initiatives

C. Number of EL Seats

D. Gen Ed Goals and Syllabi

E. 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. N/A

Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.