General Education Oversight Committee  
Monday, February 28, 2022 at 12:00pm-1:30pm  
Via WebEx  
Meeting Minutes

*Members in BOLD were in attendance:*  

Called to order at 12:01 pm.

1. Welcome and Regrets  
   a. Regrets: Tania Huedo-Medina

2. Past and Future Meetings
   
   A. Minutes of February 14, 2022 meeting.
      - No changes.

   M. Ortega motioned to approved the Minutes. O. Hiob-Bansal seconded. The minutes were accepted as submitted with one abstention.

   B. Future Meetings:  
      (Mar. 14 – SPRING BREAK. No Meeting)  
      Mar. 28, 12:00pm-1:30pm  
      Apr. 11, 12:00pm-1:30pm  
      Apr. 25, 12:00pm-1:30pm

3. Upcoming Deadlines
   
   A. Nothing Imminent. Just work on clearing your dockets in a timely manner.

4. Chair’s Report
   
   A. University Senate, Special Meeting TODAY (2/28/22): [https://ait.uconn.edu/university-senate-meeting/](https://ait.uconn.edu/university-senate-meeting/)
      - There will be an introduction to the process, then a panel will present the document and answer questions.
      - There will be limits on how often and how long Senators can speak.
      - There is no end time set for the meeting.

   B. Members Whose Current Term Ends after Spring 2022:
      a. Michele Back (Rotating off)
      b. Oksan Bayulgen (Rotating off)
      c. Brenda Brueggemann (Eligible for 2nd term)
      d. Lori Gresham (Renewing for a second term)
e. Morty Ortega (Renewing for a second term)

C. Other Members Rotating Off
   a. Richard Dunn (CA4)
   b. Tania Huedo-Medina (Q)

D. GEOC Co-Chair Needs for Fall 2022
   a. Two CA4 Co-Chairs
   b. One Q Co-Chair
   c. One Second Language Co-Chair
      • Please let us know if you know anyone.
      • We will reach out to the Regional campuses as well.

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket
   a. ARTH 2020 Global Jerusalem [CA1, CA4-Int] (#10286) [New course]
   b. DMD 2020 Design Thinking [CA1] (#8104) [Revise prereqs and description]
   c. HIST 2845/W Global History of Capitalism [CA1, CA4, W] (#9324) [New Course]
   d. LLAS/HIST/WGSS 3675 Latina History and Biography [CA1, CA4] (#10855) [Add course]
   e. PHIL 1109 Global Existentialism [CA1, CA4] (#11145) [Add CA1]
   f. SPAN 3232 Literature of Crisis in Modern Spain [CA1] (N/A) [Intensive Session Request]
      • K. McDermott noted that the CA1 report is mainly informational. This course was approved
        and already sent on.

The CA1 Report was approved as submitted unanimously (Approval of SPAN 3232).

B. CA2 Docket
   a. SOCI 1251 Social Problems [CA2, CA4, W] (#10285) [Revise description]

C. CA3 Docket
   a. KINS 2227 Exercise Prescription [CA3] (#10305) [Add CA3]
      • A. Skoog presented the report. The subcommittee is recommending approval with a caveat;
        they would like more standard scientific language incorporated into the course.

The CA3 Report was approved as submitted unanimously (Approval of KINS 2227).

D. CA4 Docket
   a. GEOG/URBN 1200 The City in the Western Tradition [CA1, CA4-Int] (#8724) [Revise title; add CA4-Int]
   b. SOCI 1251 Social Problems [CA2, CA4, W] (#10285) [Revise description]

E. Q Docket (N/A)
   a. COGS 2500Q Coding for Cognitive Science [Q] (#9226) [Add course]

F. W Docket
   a. HIST/LLAS 3608W The Hispanic World in the Ages of Reason and Revolution [W] (#11045) [Add LLAS cross listing]
   b. LING 2700W Field Methods in Linguistics [W] (#10826) [Add course]
   c. ME 4974W Ethics for Engineers [W] (#9404) [New course]
   d. MEM 4971W Senior Design Project I [W] (#11581) [Revise prereqs and credits]

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e. MEM 4972W Senior Design Project II [W] (#11582) [Revise prereqs and credits]
f. PNB 3253W Current Topics in Molecular and Developmental Neurobiology [W] (#10285) [New course]
g. POLS 2803W Legal Reasoning and Writing [W] (#10585) [Add course]
h. POLS 2807W Women and the Law [W] (#10547) [Add course]
i. POLS 2827W Criminal Justice in Practice [W] (#10645) [Add course]
j. WGSS 4994W Senior Seminar [W] (#8684) [Add enrollment restriction]

• O. Hiob-Bansal presented the report.

The W Report was approved as submitted unanimously (Approval of WGSS 4994W).

G. EL Docket
a. ME 2232E Engineering Thermodynamics [EL] (#10192) [New course]

H. Information Literacy Docket
I. Second Language Docket

6. Alignment Reports
A. CA1 Report
• L. Cummings presented the report.
• The ECON course just barely passed. The committee was very split. Members had to read very deeply into the assessments. Some feedback to the proposer is certainly warranted.
• One member expressed disappointment that CA1 members had to put so much effort into determining alignment. It is the proposer’s job to make things clear.

The CA1 Alignment Report was accepted as submitted. (Aligned: AMST 1700, ECON 2102W (with feedback), MAST 1200)

B. CA2 Report
• B. Day presented the report.
• There was an issue raised by one member regarding ECON 1201, so CA2 recommended the addition of certain elements.
• There was discussion of what this meant.
• B. Day amended the report to read “CA2 approves ECON 1201 with the following recommendations...” for clarity.
• Was there any evidence presented of ethical consideration? To a degree, it was taken on faith. Most debate in CA2 is around this clause. This is where the most uncertainty is.

The CA2 Alignment Report was accepted as amended. (Aligned: PSYC 1011, ECON 1201 with recommendations)

C. CA3 Report

D. CA4 Report
• O. Bayulgen presented the report.
• The AMST course was quite variable. The subcommittee recommend that the instructors try to work on coordinating with each other or drafting a more standard syllabus so that students across sections have a more consistent experience.

The CA4 Alignment Report was accepted as submitted. (Aligned: AAAS 3212, AFRA 3505, AMST 1201, PSYC 3102)
E. Q Report
- K. Conrad presented the report.
- The courses were pretty straightforward. All were approved.

The Q Alignment Report was accepted as submitted. (Aligned: CHEM 1127Q, ECON 2211Q, PSYC 2100WQ)

F. W Report
- L. Gresham presented the report.

The W Alignment Report was accepted as submitted. (Aligned: ACCT 4997W, AFRA 4994W, ECON 2102W, SLHS 4254W; Does not Align: MARN 4030W, PSYC 3100W)

7. Discussion (and Document) on Accessibility
- M. Wagner brought this issue to the Senate Executive Committee. SEC confirmed that it is not GEOC’s role to enforce this, but GEOC will write up a document and bring specific concerns back to SEC for action.
- Who enforces the ADA?
- There was a suggestion to have Karen Skudlarek come speak to us.
- While GEOC is not an official enforcer, we do need to start tagging courses that do not meet ADA compliance.
- Members supported that GEOC should take a leading role in making sure courses are accessible.
- It was noted that we need a wider campus conversation beyond CSD about what accessibility means and how we implement it.
- One member noted that he has a student who uses a robot to attend class. What other possibilities are there that faculty may not know about?
- It was noted that there should not be one place where courses are reviewed for accessibility. There should other layers of review.
- One member felt that GEOC should be able to put the brakes on a course that does not meet accessibility.
- One member noted that they have what the Provost’s Office would consider a ‘radical accessibility’ statement in their syllabus. They promise something they are not supposed to promise.
- One member noted in the chat, “I have the same ‘radical’ accessibility statement too. The provost/office is only sending out the basic ‘letter of the law’ (they don't even know what it means, I think). And again: there is no one here paying attention to any of these things…”
- One member expressed concern about how meaningful it would be to include this information in the syllabus. Most students do not read anything in the syllabus but the schedule.
- How much do we know about ADA as a whole? One member noted they personally knew a little about it, but not a lot.
- One member asked in the chat, “Do we have any statistics on types of disabilities students have at UConn?” We will ask CSD for this data.
- One member noted that we should be cautious about making faculty legally liable for more things.
- One member noted that – despite constant reference to the syllabus as a contract – the syllabus is not a “contract”; it is a “user agreement.” This is a technical point, but we should step away from talking about syllabi as contracts.
- What are the resources? What is the current enforcement?
- There will be additional discuss next time about where we want to go with this.

8. **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

9. **Course Action Requests in the Queue**

   **Full-Committee Review**
   A. N/A

   **Requests on Hold**
   A. N/A

   **Requests Under Chair Review**
   A. ENGL 1301 Major Works of Eastern Literature [CA4-Int] (#11706) [Revise Prereqs]
   B. POLS/MAST 2460 Maritime Politics [CA2, EL] (#10206) [New course]

Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.
M. Ortega motioned to adjourn. E. Ouimet seconded. Motion passed unanimously.