



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

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

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

Called to order at 12:02 pm.

1. Welcome and Regrets

- a. **Regrets:** Tania Huedo-Medina

2. Past and Future Meetings

- A. Minutes of February 28, 2022 meeting.

- No changes.

M. Ortega motioned to approved the Minutes. B. Day seconded. The minutes were accepted as submitted with two abstentions.

- B. Future Meetings:

Apr. 11, 12:00pm-1:30pm

Apr. 25, 12:00pm-1:30pm

3. Upcoming Deadlines

- A. End of the Academic Year. Please try to clear your dockets of any courses that have been waiting for more than two weeks.

4. Chair's Report

- A. Common Curriculum Update

- The Common Curriculum was approved pending approval of Implementation Guidelines and By-Law changes.
- There will likely be a special meeting to discuss and vote on these two other documents.

- B. Anti-Black Racism Course Group

- The group met for the first time last week.
- They can now invite other colleagues to talk at the next committee meeting.
- We compiled the feedback from GEOC and will discuss these ideas in the committee. If you have any additional thoughts, please share them.

- C. Seal of Biliteracy

- This is an exam that is offered through ACTFL.
- This is a way for students to show that they are proficient in another language.

- It is a very vigorous test. Students need to be at an intermediate level.
 - We are getting colleagues together who would like to have input in this.
 - One member asked about students, like many of our Chinese students, who are more than biliterate. This can be added to the discussion.
- D. Members Whose Current Term Ends after Spring 2022:
- a. Michele Back (Rotating off)
 - b. Oksan Bayulgen (Rotating off)
 - c. Brenda Brueggemann (Rotating off)
 - d. Lori Gresham (Renewing for a second term)
 - e. Morty Ortega (Renewing for a second term)
- E. Other Members Rotating Off
- a. Richard Dunn (CA4)
 - b. Tania Huedo-Medina (Q)
- F. GEOC Co-Chair Needs for Fall 2022
- a. Two CA4 Co-Chairs
 - b. One Q Co-Chair
 - c. One Second Language Co-Chair
 - d. Two Info Lit Co-Chairs

5. Subcommittee Dockets

A. CA1 Docket

New

- a. HIST/MAST/LLAS 2507 New England and the Caribbean Plantation Complex, 1650-1900 [CA1, CA4-Int] (#12625) [New course]

Older

- b. ARTH 2020 Global Jerusalem [CA1, CA4-Int] (#10286) [New course]
- c. DMD 2020 Design Thinking [CA1] (#8104) [Revise prereqs and description]
- d. HIST 2845/W Global History of Capitalism [CA1, CA4, W] (#9324) [New Course]
- e. LLAS/HIST/WGSS 3675 Latina History and Biography [CA1, CA4] (#10855) [Add course]
- f. PHIL 1109 Global Existentialism [CA1, CA4] (#11145) [Add CA1]
 - L. Cummings and K. Dennis presented the report.

The CA1 Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of LLAS/HIST/WGSS 3675, ARTH 2020, PHIL 1109).

B. CA2 Docket

New

- a. POLS/MAST 2460 Maritime Politics [CA2, EL] (#10206) [New course]

Older

- b. SOCI 1251 Social Problems [CA2, CA4, W] (#10285) [Revise description]
 - B. Day presented the report.

The CA2 Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of POLS/MAST 2460, SOCI 1251).

C. CA3 Docket (N/A)

D. CA4 Docket

New

- a. ENGL 1301 Major Works of Eastern Literature [CA4-Int] (#11706) [Revise Prereqs]
- b. HIST/MAST/LLAS 2507 New England and the Caribbean Plantation Complex, 1650-1900 [CA1, CA4-Int] (#12625) [New course]
- c. PHIL 1109 Global Existentialism [CA1, CA4-Int] (#11145) [Add CA1, currently CA4-Int]

Older

- d. GEOG/URBN 1200 The City in the Western Tradition [CA1, CA4-Int] (#8724) [Revise title; add CA4-Int]
- e. SOCI 1251 Social Problems [CA2, CA4, W] (#10285) [Revise description]
 - O. Bayulgen presented the report.

The CA4 Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of ENGL 1301, HIST/MAST/LLAS 2507, PHIL 1109).

- E. Q Docket (N/A)
- a. COGS 2500Q Coding for Cognitive Science [Q] (#9226) [Add course]
 - K. Conrad presented the report.

The Q Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of COGS 2500Q).

F. W Docket

New

- a. SOCI 2240/W Sociology of Race and Religion [W] (#12585) [New course]
- b. SOCI 2720/W Environmental Racism, Colonialism and Justice [W, E] (#12607) [New course]

Older

- c. HIST/LLAS 3608W The Hispanic World in the Ages of Reason and Revolution [W] (#11045) [Add LLAS cross listing]
- d. LING 2700W Field Methods in Linguistics [W] (#10826) [Add course]
- e. ME 4974W Ethics for Engineers [W] (#9404) [New course]
- f. MEM 4971W Senior Design Project I [W] (#11581) [Revise prereqs and credits]
- g. MEM 4972W Senior Design Project II [W] (#11582) [Revise prereqs and credits]
- h. PNB 3253W Current Topics in Molecular and Developmental Neurobiology [W] (#10285) [New course]
- i. **POLS 2803W Legal Reasoning and Writing [W] (#10585) [Add course]**
- j. **POLS 2807W Women and the Law [W] (#10547) [Add course]**
- k. POLS 2827W Criminal Justice in Practice [W] (#10645) [Add course]
 - O. Hiob-Bansal presented the report.

The W Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of POLS 2803W, POLS 2807W).

G. EL Docket

New

- a. POLS/MAST 2460E Maritime Politics [CA2, EL] (#10206) [New course]
- b. SOCI 2720E/W Environmental Racism, Colonialism and Justice [W, EL] (#12607) [New course]

Older

- c. ME 2232E Engineering Thermodynamics [EL] (#10192) [New course]
 - M. Ortega presented the report. He noted that EL just sent a follow-up email about the ME course.

The EL Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Approval of POLS/MAST 2460, SOCI 2720E/W).

H. Information Literacy Docket

I. Second Language Docket

6. Alignment Reports

A. CA3 Report

- A. Skoog presented the report.
- For CHEM 1127Q, the subcommittee received six syllabi. There was one older syllabus. Overall, the course has not changed much.

The CA3 Alignment Report was approved unanimously as submitted (Alignment of CHEM 1127Q and PSYC 1100).

7. Discussion (and [Document](#)) on Accessibility – GUEST: Karen Skudlarek (12:30pm)

- K. Skudlarek was in attendance to discuss accessibility.
- We want to have as many accommodations in place so that students do not have to ask for them. (E.g. captions available on all videos.)
- There was an example of a curb that allows wheelchair access. In reality, this accommodation benefits many people.
- Universal Design for Learning takes the “disability” tag off the curriculum. The idea is to create access based on scientific research in order to optimize teaching.
- A lot of disabilities our students have are not visible. Remember this in course design, and be open-minded to what a disability can be.
- Access does not need to happen all at once. Identify places where good design will save effort.
- Important ideas are Representation, Action and Expression, Engagement.
- One member asked about ways in which syllabi are not accessible. A Screenreader, for example, cannot read syllabi with tables very well.
- YouTube and Kaltura captions are only about 70-80% accurate. ADA requires 99% accuracy.
- Use tags in pictures (Alt text). You can mark the picture as “decorative.”
- Use headings and a table of contents if possible.
- Avoid color-coding for students who may have visual impairments, and make sure there is enough color contrast.
- Use a “descriptive hyperlink,” not the long link.
- Remember that screen readers always read left to right.
- This may be tricky to do if the syllabus is this not in Word, like it is for many Math courses.
- Students with disabilities look for universities that have accessibility. If we don’t have a lot of students with a certain disability, it may be because they know we are not accessibility-friendly.
- If you think paid captions are important, talk to your department head and move this up the ladder.
- One member noted in the chat, “The problem with petitioning and trying to make it a department/program's responsibility is that the potential for discrimination and stigma is significant. Accessibility needs to be *centralized*.”
- Word docs have a “check accessibility” feature.
- Should GEOC say that syllabi that come through must be accessible? Should we be promoting this? In short, what can and should GEOC be doing?
- It was noted that any required changes to syllabi would need to go through the by-laws.
- CETL offers workshops if members are interested in learning more.

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. N/A

Meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.