

GEOC Meeting October 8, 2007

In Attendance: Katharina von Hammerstein, Anabel Perez, Cora Lynn Deibler, Tom Deans, Arnie Dashefsky, Jane Goldman, John Troyer, Xae Alicia Reyes, Dean Hanink, William Lott, Marie Cantino, Felicia Pratto, Hedley Freake, Clare Eby, Peter Gogarten, Mike Darre. Not Present: John Bennett, Manuela Wagner, Tom Roby, Murphy Sewall.

Meeting called to order at 12:05pm.

1. Minutes from the September 24, 2007 meeting approved with the following revision:

- Page 2. "CLAS C&CC can put in place college-level gened requirements."

Motion to approve minutes as amended. Motion carried with one abstention.

2. Announcements

- *John Bennett* has notified GEOC that he is back on campus half-time. He will be joining us for our upcoming GEOC meeting October 22, 2007.
- *New GEOC members.* Xae Alicia Reyes and Murphy Sewall have been appointed to GEOC. Xae Alicia Reyes will co-chair the Second Language subcommittee; Murphy Sewall will co-chair the Computer Technology Competency subcommittee.
- *General Education Course Approval Process Summary.* Any comments or questions should be forwarded to Anabel Perez.
 - Hedley Freake suggests that we set a GEOC deadline rather than give a timeline for school/college approval.
 - Rather than give a January suggested proposal deadline for a November approval, summary should note that, oftentimes, course proposals are returned for revisions which may prolong the approval process.
 - Note explicitly that GEOC needs course proposals submitted to GEOC by September 1st in order to meet the published November catalog deadline.
 - Summary should include a dual-pointed arrow from departmental C&C Chair to faculty/originator back to departmental C&C Chair for forwarding to GEOC.
- *Subcommittee meetings.* Katharina von Hammerstein proposed that subcommittees meet a couple of times during September in order to allow new courses to meet the official catalog deadline.
 - Note that subcommittee meetings convening prior to the first GEOC meeting of the semester would be missing a student member.
 - Anabel Perez should send emails to subcommittee co-chairs when they have new course proposals to review.
 - Anabel Perez should include a reminder in the semester meeting schedule email that subcommittees should review their inboxes and determine disposition of proposal by a given date.
 - Senate C&CC will call another meeting prior to a Senate meeting, if needed.
 - GEOC agreed that subcommittees will meet mid-September.
 - Subcommittees should note that spring semester subcommittee reports should go to GEOC by April 1st to meet the last Senate C&CC meeting of the semester.
- *Learning Commons at the regional campuses.* Veronica Makowsky has assured Katharina von Hammerstein that the Storrs learning commons representatives are in contact with the regional campuses about setting up learning commons on their campuses.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Writing Competency

The Writing subcommittee recommends **approval** of the following courses:

ENGL XXXW [4965W] Advanced Studies in Early Literature

JOUR 2XXW [XXXXW] Public Affairs Reporting

Motion to approve W report as written. Motion carried.

Science and Technology

The CA3 subcommittee recommends the **approval** of the following course:

Laboratory

GEOG XXX [1032] GIS Modeling of Environmental Change

The CA3 subcommittee recommends the **revision** of the following courses:

BME/CSE 120 [XXXX] Honors Core: Computational Molecular Biology
(CA3 needs more clarification about CA3 teaching)

AH 130/NUSC XXX [1030] Interdisciplinary Approach to Obesity Prevention
(The acceptability of this course for CA3 cannot be determined at this time. A more detailed syllabus is needed as well as details about how much of the course will be devoted to science issues and how much will be devoted to diversity issues.)

Motion to approve the CA3 report with the following amendment: AH/NUSC 1030 to be removed from approved list of courses and recommend revision instead. Motion carried.

Diversity and Multiculturalism

The CA4 subcommittee recommends the **revision** of the following course:

HRTS/PHIL 1XX [2XXX] Bioethics and Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspective
(The depth of diversity issues to be discussed in the course is not enough to warrant CA4 inclusion.)

The CA4 subcommittee **DOES NOT recommend the approval** of the following courses:

HIST 228/W Europe in the Nineteenth Century
HIST 229/W Europe in the Twentieth Century

Motion to approve the CA4 report. Motion carried.

Topics of discussion for another meeting: What does “Diversity and Multiculturalism” mean?

Computer Technology Competency

The Computer Technology Competency subcommittee has met to discuss assessment of this competency. Some issues they have raised are as follows:

- what will assessment look like when less than ½ of university departments have exit expectations above computer technology entrance requirements?
 - For those departments with higher exit expectations, departmental assessment data of this major expectation could be used to compare against the original entrance expectations.
- 60% of incoming students have completed the HuskyCT self-assessment. Increasingly, high school computer technology competency expectations are higher than college level expectations.
- For many departments, the lack of capital funds limits the ability of departments to require higher expectations of their students.

4.1 Global Certificate

Hedley Freake is the chair of the Provost's Global Citizen Curriculum Taskforce. The idea of developing a global certificate has been raised. It would be available to all UConn students if they meet certain criteria for global education. Some examples of these requirements would be study abroad, second language, a component of a student's major that focuses on international issues, etc.

It is currently unclear how this certificate would be administered, though it has been suggested that the administration could happen between GEOC and Individualized and Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

The following concerns were raised:

- Jane Goldman has raised concerns about how these certificates will differ from interdisciplinary minors.
- Because the global certificate is not part of the GEOC mandate, some members of GEOC are uncomfortable with the possibility of housing the administration of this certificate in GEOC.
- Commitment to global education should not be defined by certification, but should be a more integrative part of the undergraduate educational experience.

4.2 General Education Course Competition Streamlining

There are currently three competitions providing funding for general education course development: Provost's Office General Education Course Development Competition administered by GEOC, the Summer Enhancement Competition (to be started May 2009) administered by the Enrichment Programs office, and the Honors Competition, administered by the Honors Program.

Summer Enhancement Program courses would be geared toward students that have finished their first year without the requisite number of credits to be sophomores. The hope of this competition is the development of small courses that include experiential learning and a living and learning component. This would be open to all students at UConn.

Honors Competition is geared toward the development of interdisciplinary courses, some of which may be general education. Veronica Makowsky has guaranteed funding for this competition.

There is a proposal to get competition deadlines aligned and a single website created in order to publicize these opportunities to faculty, thereby increasing the value of gened at UConn.

The following concerns and issues were raised:

- There should be a very clear distinction between those courses that are general education and those that are innovative and interdisciplinary but do not focus on gened.
- GEOC members have expressed concerns that GEOC is becoming interconnected with other university programs whose main goals are not general education. Interdisciplinarity is valuable but must be closely reviewed in order to maintain the integrity of the gened curriculum.
- Dean Hanink has raised the need for an impact analysis for the Provost's Office General Education Course Development Competition that includes course load implications.

Our next GEOC meeting will be October 22, 2007 12-2pm in CUE 420.

Respectfully submitted,

Anabel Perez
Administrator