

GEOC Meeting November 5, 2007

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

Meeting called to order at 12:05pm.

1. Minutes of the October 22, 2007 meeting were edited as follows:

- CA3 discussion on page 2: remove bullets 3 and 4.
- Edit typos on page 1 and 3.
- Remove second reference to Xae Alicia Reyes in the “In Attendance” section.

2. Announcements:

- Introductions. New undergraduate student member, Robert Ganim. Per William Lott, Murphy Sewall has not been formally notified by the Senate Office that he has been appointed to GEOC. Katharina von Hammerstein will look into this.
- Subcommittee membership:
 - Information Literacy: Carolyn Lin has declined to co-chair the subcommittee. Someone in the School of Education would be a good person- Xae Alicia Reyes will get back to GEOC about possible names.
 - Diversity and Multiculturalism: Anke Finger has been appointed to GEOC and will chair the CA4 subcommittee in the coming semester.
- Global Citizenship Certificate: Hedley Freake and Katharina von Hammerstein have communicated to the Global Curriculum Taskforce the outcome of GEOC’s discussion about the global certificate and administering the certificate out of the GEOC office. The GEOC was opposed to this plan.
- CLAS Deans: Katharina von Hammerstein has met with the CLAS Deans to more clearly articulate GEOC responsibilities.

3. Subcommittee Reports:

Diversity and Multiculturalism

The CA4 subcommittee recommends **approval** of the following courses:

POLS 279/W	South Asia in World Politics
ART 244 [3375]	Indian Art and Popular Culture

(Jane Goldman recommends that we ask the department to consider changing the title of the course to “Asian Indian Art and Popular Culture”)

The CA4 subcommittee **does NOT** recommend approval of the following course:

AH 1030/ NUSC XXXX	Honors Core: Interdisciplinary Approach to Obesity Prevention
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Motion to approve the CA4 report as written. Motion approved.

Second Language Competency

Xae Alicia Reyes has updated the Second Language Competency language.

GEOC recommended the following edits:

“Second language competency prepares students for the increasingly multilingual challenges involved in exchanges of goods and ideas, and for effective participation in local, regional, and global affairs.”

“The broad benefits of learning and using a second language can be obtained from the study of any one of a variety of languages: ancient or modern, written or spoken, less or more widely taught, verbal or sign. Therefore, any natural language may satisfy this requirement.”

Motion to approve the new second language competency language. Motion approved with one objection.

Revision will include date of official approval.

Mike Darre suggests that we make the cosmetic changes without submitting to the Senate. Anabel Perez will check the University Bylaws to see if the second language competency language is included.

Science and Technology

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

GEOG/ GEOL 1XXX	Global Change and Natural Disasters
AH 1030/ NUSC XXXX	Honors Core: Interdisciplinary Approach to Obesity Prevention (Hedley Freake suggests we submit this course to Senate C&CC with the recommendation that attention be paid to the choice of title.)

Motion to approve the CA3 report with the removal of the sentences beginning with “In the course of our discussion, we agreed...” Motion approved with one objection.

Senate bylaws do not explicitly state what constitutes a CA3 course. The subcommittee has determined informally that a minimum of two thirds of the course must be devoted to CA3 criteria, more if the course is a laboratory course, in order to be included in CA3. This must be discussed in individual subcommittees.

A discussion ensued:

- Jane Goldman expressed discomfort about quantifying the amount of the course devoted to a particular content area.
- How strict a definition of the particular discipline is being used?
- What mandate do we have to support interdisciplinary courses that do not clearly fit into particular content areas?

Computer Technology Competency

William Lott reports that participation in the computer technology competency evaluation module is running at approximately 40% of new students, with the School of Nursing reaching 100% participation.

The subcommittee has noted that there are several commercial computer assessment programs that GEOC could use to assess this competency. The subcommittee will research these programs and report back to GEOC about cost and feasibility.

The subcommittee is looking at expanding the computer technology competency module to include computer ethics and web offerings.

Writing Competency

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

MCB 292W Senior Research Thesis in Molecular and Cell Biology
ARE 261W Writing in Food Policy

The W subcommittee has determined that the subcommittee will not act on a course proposal until all revisions have been consolidated into the original proposal.

Motion to approve the W report as written. Motion approved.

4. Writing Courses

W Course Enrollment

Katharina von Hammerstein and Tom Deans have met to discuss the ongoing issue of the need for W course seats.

Tom Deans and Katharina von Hammerstein suggested a forum to inform departments about alternatives to the 3-credit W course. Tom suggests inviting some of the departments that have created well-integrated 1-credit W courses to discuss how they have gone about putting these in place. Veronica Makowsky has been approached about this idea and is supportive. Jane Goldman has recommended that departmental C&C representatives are invited to attend.

Note: It is still unclear if there should be a co-failure clause for the 1-credit W and content courses.

Intersession courses

Updated intersession curricular action form was distributed. Any comments or corrections should be forwarded to Anabel Perez.

ART 135 has been taught in the six-week intersession and also online. The proposer would now like to offer the course in the 3-week intensive session.

The following points and questions were raised in the discussion that ensued:

- What are the total contact hours?
- Some new research has shown that some courses are more effective when taught in shorter sessions where students are fully immersed in the material.
- How much is the instructor looking at the material from the readings vs. student opinions about the subject?

Motion to approve ART 135 Art Appreciation for **one** intensive winter session, Winter 2008, with the additional request that the instructor submit documentation about student response to the course and instructor feedback about the course's success. Motion approved with 1 objection and 2 abstentions.

Meeting closed at 1:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anabel Perez
GEOC Administrator