

GEOC Meeting November 12, 2007

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

Meeting called to order at 12:05pm.

1. Minutes from the November 5, 2007 meeting were approved as written.

2. Announcements

Spring 2008 GEOC meeting times. Katharina von Hammerstein has contacted Murphy Sewall to discuss GEOC membership. Murphy Sewall cannot EVER attend Monday meetings. Arnie Dashefsky also cannot make Monday meetings in Spring 2008. Marie Cantino suggests planning the Spring 2008 semester schedule and, if Monday is the best day, then ask Murphy Sewall to resign.

GEOC Membership. Andrea Hubbard has agreed to join the Information Literacy Competency subcommittee. A co-chair is still needed for this subcommittee. John Bennett has identified the following important characteristics for a new chair: interest in gened, interest in information literacy, and interest in assessment.

Possible members, and other suggestions:

- Manuela Wagner suggests Michael Young (NEAG).
- Mike Darre suggests Dan Civco (CANR).
- Peter Gogarten suggests someone from the SFA.
- Tom Deans suggests someone from a discipline in computer literacy.
- Hedley Freake suggests a female member.

****Katharina von Hammerstein will speak to John Bennett to discuss this issue before making any recommendations to the Senate Nominating Committee.****

Tom Deans will be on sabbatical next semester. The Writing subcommittee will have a discussion about how best to manage in his absence.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Science and Technology

Marie Cantino reported that the subcommittee encountered some issues with the “interdisciplinarity” of MCB 125 Genetics Revolution in Contemporary Culture. This is an Honors Core course that will be offered in the Spring as a regular course.

Motion to approve MCB 125 Honors Core: Genetics Revolution in Contemporary Culture for inclusion in CA3 pending receipt of a syllabus and approval by the CA3 subcommittee. Motion carried.

Quantitative Competency

The Q subcommittee has discussed the availability of money in order to adequately assess this competency. They have also discussed how the Q competency should be assessed: within the confines of the current competency guidelines (some subcommittee members wonder if the current Q requirements are too algebra-centered) or by taking a step back and looking at the fundamental goals of the guidelines, even though they are not clearly articulated in the GEOC guidelines. The consensus is that both can be

achieved, so long as those things not articulated in the GEOC guidelines are very clearly identified as “additional” goals.

Hedley Freake has noted that assessment at this time is to assess how the requirements are being met, *as currently stated*.

Katharina von Hammerstein has suggested that Assessment subcommittee member Felicia Pratto attend the next Q subcommittee meeting to discuss assessment.

The following questions were raised and points made:

- Should Q-requirements be discipline-specific? Should this requirement mirror the W requirement?
- Is the requirement currently only affecting a small subset of students with majors that require Q skills beyond high school algebra?
- Should the Q requirements be assessed as effective in providing to students the knowledge that is at the core of Q competency requirement but not articulated?
 - We should probably NOT assess this yet, but make research about this a part of the assessment process.

Adequate Q assessment would assess how the requirements are being met at this time, as well as how well the requirements reflect the goals the university is really trying to teach.

Second Language Competency

Following a discussion with the Senate Office, it has been determined that the rewording of the Second Language Competency description will need Senate approval. Katharina von Hammerstein has asked the committee to consider whether we should move forward with the changes we have approved, or wait until we are ready to propose a substantive change in the exit requirements.

The sense of the committee is that the Senate would not be interested in increasing the requirement as suggested by Arnie Dashefsky at our last GEOC meeting. Marie Cantino suggests that the Second Language subcommittee work on updating the requirements in accordance with similar changes at other comparable institutions. Hedley Freake suggests that the Second Language subcommittee review Benjamin Liu’s 2005 report about these same issues.

Niloy Dutta cautions GEOC to consider the consequences of increasing general education requirements that may result in students taking longer to graduate.

Motion to forward the updated language to Senate C&CC at this time. Motion carried.

Writing Competency

Robert Ganim reports that there was some confusion on the Undergraduate Student Senate about the purpose of the 1-credit W.

Assessment Subcommittee

Information Literacy: Information Literacy is being assessed using the SAILS instrument. The Assessment subcommittee has decided to limit the SAILS post-test to only those students that took the pre-test.

CA3: The subcommittee has identified 3 large enrollment CA3 courses. A GA will be hired to begin assessment.

W: The W subcommittee is currently identifying the departments that will be involved in the initial W assessment.

4. Reports and Discussion

Intersession. Many universities have done research on the efficacy of intensive courses and have concluded that some types of courses are more effective when taught in the intensive session.

Currently, provisionally approved courses can be re-taught if the instructors submit an evaluation of the course following the close of the intensive session. The last sentence of the Intersession courses webpage must change to the following: “Once taught, the course will be evaluated for further intersession teaching. Review decisions can be either approval, provisional approval in perpetuity, or decline.”

Guidelines for Submitting Course Proposals. Marie Cantino has made additional edits to the Guidelines for Submitting Course Proposals. Senate C&CC is looking at this document as well. GEOC discussed additional edits. Marie Cantino has documented the suggestions and will send the revised version to Mike Darre.

Mike Darre notes that GEOC must consider the consequences of renumbering on the document language.

Syllabi will now be required to accompany a course proposal. This will be a supportive document that will help illustrate and articulate how the course fulfills particular criteria.

The new version of the form will reflect the suggestion that examples would be helpful in detailing how the course will fulfill stated criteria.

Meeting closed at 2:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anabel Perez
GEOC Administrator