

GEOC Meeting December 3, 2007

In Attendance: Katharina von Hammerstein, Arnie Dashefsky, Tom Deans, John Bennett, Tom Roby, William Lott, Dean Hanink, Peter Gogarten, Marie Cantino, Robert Ganim, Jane Goldman, Clare Eby, Manuela Wagner, Xae Alicia Reyes, Cora Lynn Deibler, Felicia Pratto, Mike Darre, Anabel Perez.

Not Present: Niloy Dutta, Hedley Freaque, Murphy Sewall, Cora Lynn Deibler, John Troyer.

Meeting called to order at 12:10pm.

1. Minutes from the November 12, 2007 meeting, GEOC recommended the following edits:

- Remove the second paragraph under the Writing Competency that begins, “All 1-credit W courses....”
 - This is an issue that will be further discussed.
- Edit the parenthetical statement on Page 1, last paragraph. “Some subcommittee members wonder if the current Q requirements are too algebra-centered.”

Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Motion approved.

2. Announcements

- *W Subcommittee.* Tom Deans will be on sabbatical in the Spring semester. Kathleen Tonry will take Tom’s place on the subcommittee, but not on GEOC. Jane Goldman will chair the subcommittee on her own.
- *Second Language Subcommittee.* Manuela Wagner will be stepping down from GEOC at the request of the CLAS Dean’s Council. A replacement to GEOC will be needed to co-chair the Second Language Subcommittee.
- *Global Learning Initiatives.* This has been a key topic in the past week. An invitation was issued by the Provost to approximately 60 faculty members to a colloquium on diversity and globalization. Also, a group of faculty and administrators represented UConn at a conference in VT that focused on global citizenship. This touches on general education issues in the foreign language and diversity and multiculturalism requirements.
- *Second Language requirements.* The Second Language subcommittee will review peer universities’ second language requirements. Veronica Makowsky has suggested the subcommittee look at the foreign language requirements of the following universities: Universities of MN, DE, MI, MD, NC Chapel Hill, and MI State University.
- *Support for Disabled Faculty.* We have been contacted by a disabled faculty member that is unable to use our CAR form. With consultation with the Office of Diversity and Equity, the solution to this issue is that the department provide the necessary support to allow for electronic proposal submission.
- *SAILS Testing.* Information Literacy assessment testing has begun its second round. The first round of testing was open to all ENGL 110/111 students. Approximately 840 students participated in this first round. For the second round, only these 840 students were targeted for participation.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Social Sciences Subcommittee

The social science subcommittee recommends **approval** for intersession teaching of the following course:

ECON 111 Principles of Macroeconomics

The social science subcommittee recommends **approval** of the following course for inclusion in CA2:

POLS XXX/W [3208/W] Politics of Oil

This course is currently up for W review. Jane Goldman has noted that as a W course, this course can be restricted to POLS students.

Mike Darre has also noted that this course, as a 3000-level, may not be suitable for general education because it is not sufficiently introductory. Several GEOC members have stated that the course fits the stated criteria and as such should be approved as a gened. The new numbering system is meant to increase accessibility to courses.

Restrictions to courses should be noted in the reapproval of courses.

Clare Eby moved to accept the minutes. Tom Roby seconded the motion. Motion to approve the CA2 report passed.

Science and Technology Subcommittee

The science and technology subcommittee recommends the **approval** of the following course:

MCB 125 Honors Core: The Genetics Revolution in the Post-Modern World

This course received GEOC approval at the November 12, 2007 meeting contingent on CA3 approval.

Diversity and Multiculturalism Subcommittee

The diversity and multiculturalism subcommittee chose to defer discussion of course proposals because only 3 subcommittee members were in attendance. Instead, the CA4 subcommittee discussed further edits to the CA4 assessment document.

Writing Subcommittee

The W subcommittee recommends the **approval** of the following courses for inclusion in the W competency:

COGS 296W [3520W] Senior Thesis in Cognitive Science
POLS XXXW [3208W] Politics of Oil

The W subcommittee requests **revision** of the following courses:

ARTH 282 [3502W] Twentieth Century Architecture
ARE 240W [3440W] Writing in Environmental and Resource Policy

John Bennett moved to approve the course section of the W report. Motion to approve the course portion of the W report passed.

The second half of the W subcommittee report includes recommendations about the Provost's Competition grants. It also includes discussion points about the 1-credit W course. These recommendations include:

- Co-registration for the linked 1-credit W should be required.
- Co-failure for the 1-credit and linked 3-credit courses should be an option.
- Independent 1-credit W courses should be an option for departments outside of the School of Business.

The second half of the December 2, 2007 W report will be appended to the minutes. They are reproduced below.

“We discussed the Provost’s Gen Ed Grant process and arrived at a few conclusions:

- That we should give lower priority to advanced W courses in the major because departments already have strong incentives to create and staff those.
- We should give greater priority to 100-level Ws and those that increase capacity for serving students from outside the department seeking a 2nd W.
- Some committee members thought that steering funding away from the new course grants and instead toward current W course instruction (for example, allocating more funding for graduate assistants to support W courses) would be a better use of instructional dollars.

We discussed one-credit W courses and arrived at the following recommendations:

- We should abandon the current “co-failure” precedent for 3-credit courses linked to 1-credit W courses. That is, if students fail the 1-credit W course, they should not be *required* to fail the 3-credit companion course.
- We should maintain the “co-registration” precedent for *linked courses*. Faculty on our committee who have experience teaching such courses find this essential.
- We should be open to 1 or 2 credit W courses that are not linked to 3-credit courses (i.e., the School of Business model). These need to be carefully designed and should be considered on a case-by-case basis.”

4. Reports and Discussion

Six Department Rule. Senate C&CC has requested clarification for the wording we recommended.

Senate C&CC had the following questions and comments:

- The term “academic unit” would not include INTD, and possibly UNIV, because there is no academic home for these courses.
- Is it really “academic units” we are concerned about or is it content matter?
- Redundancy of language.

A discussion ensued:

- One of the main issues in the initial GEOC discussion was due to cross-listing.
 - Cross-listed courses have a defined number of seats allocated to the particular subject matter designation. Therefore, in a situation where a student is trying to enroll in, for example, COMM/POLS and the COMM seats are taken, the student can enroll as POLS.
- How many departments have multiple content areas? This may not be a very big issue.

GEOC will replace “academic unit” with “subject matter area (as designated by the 3 or 4-letter subject designation, such as COMM).”

CA3 Rule. There is a rule in the Senate bylaws that states that laboratory courses must be 4-credit courses. This requirement is waived for those students that have taken a hands-on laboratory course in biological and/or physical sciences.

The CA3 language will go to the CA3 subcommittee for review of the “4 or more credits” requirement and other language. They will propose new language.

Provost's Competition. GEOC's role in this competition is to create the proposal criteria, administer the review of proposals, and administer the award distributions. Katharina von Hammerstein recommends moving up the timelines for submission in order to allow faculty more time to submit proposals.

Clare Eby notes that GEOC must be careful in the areas that we choose as target courses. Interdisciplinary courses, named as a goal of the 2007 competition, have created real problems for the subcommittees when reviewing proposals. Several GEOC members have stated that until GEOC has the conversation about interdisciplinary courses and how they should be reviewed by this committee, this should not be a goal of the competition.

The following amendments will be made to the current Provost's Competition announcement:

- Clarify the importance of assessment in the proposal. Course evaluation vs. student assessment.
- Interdisciplinary courses should be removed as a goal.
- Service learning should be removed as a goal.
- The 100-W course should remain as a goal.
- The first sentence in italics should be amended to read: "W courses 1000- or 2000-level open to all majors."
- The following are possible candidates for competition goals:
 - Courses with student-centered teaching approaches.
 - 1000- and/or 2000-level W courses open to all majors.
 - Student-centered teaching in large-enrollment science gateway and Q courses.
 - Courses focused on global learning.
 - Performing arts courses.

Motion made to approve the inclusion of the five areas noted above in the provost's competition announcement. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Anabel Perez
GEOC Administrator