GEOC Meeting January 30, 2013

In attendance: Murphy Sewall, Xae Alicia Reyes, Sarah Winter, Eric Schultz, Wally Madych, Mike Young, Peter Kaminsky, Tom Abbott, Anabel Perez, Karen Piantek, Tom Deans, Nicholas Leadbeater, Olivier Morand, Tom Long, Rosa Helena Chinchilla.
Not present: Kailee Himes, Richard Jones, Noah Sharpsteen, Françoise Dussart.

Meeting called to order at 1:10pm.

1. Minutes of the December 3, 2012 meeting

Motion to approve minutes as written. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

2. Announcements

- *GEOC members.* Nicholas Leadbeater (Chemistry) was appointed to the GEOC and will serve as a Q subcommittee co-chair.
- *Program Assistant*. The GEOC welcomed Karen Piantek as the new Program Assistant for the GEOC.
- *Membership.* There are still several vacancies on the GEOC, the most pressing of which is CA3.
    - While nothing in the Gen Ed Guidelines addresses this point directly, GEOC practice has been to have 4-6 members per subcommittee.

3. Subcommittee Reports

CA3 Science and Technology

(Note: due to review delays, the full GEOC was asked to review the following proposal)
The GEOC recommended the **approval** of the following course for inclusion in CA3 Science and Technology, non-Lab:

CHEG 1200 Introduction to Food Science and Engineering

Discussion:

- This proposal was submitted in October and was originally planned for offering in this Spring semester; however, CA3 review delays meant the course was not approved in time.
- One member suggested that the syllabus was general and did not provide a percentage breakdown for the grade; Eric Schultz noted that the GEOC could note this in their report to Senate C&CC and that the SCCC would follow-up.
- One member asked about the level of consultation with NUSC regarding course overlap.
    - While the proposal notes that "No other departments have been consulted," it also notes that the course was designed for non-majors with little science background so as not to overlap with the existing Nutritional Science course. It was noted that this may also be an issue for the Senate C&CC to address.

Motion to approve the course. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism

The CA4 subcommittee recommended the **approval** of the following course for inclusion in CA4 Diversity and Multiculturalism- non-International:

ANTH 1010 Global Climate Change and Human Societies

Motion to approve the course. Motion seconded.

Motion carried.

The course is being proposed as a multiple-content area gen ed (MCAGE) course (CA 2, CA 3, and CA 4); rather than wait for review by the other subcommittees, the approval will be sent forward to Senate C&CC at this time.

4. Reports and Discussion

The Provost's Competition

The question of this year's Provost's Competition was put forward to the committee. Murph Sewall noted that GEOC options were to:

- run the competition as usual (proposals due in March, decisions in April), in which case the GEOC needs to move on this immediately;
- repurpose the funds toward assessment;
- return the funds.

Discussion:

- Tom Deans noted that the coming influx of new faculty members may generate more interest and proposals; the competition could generate interest in Gen Ed.
- Several members expressed concern about future funding of the competition should the GEOC not hold the competition this year.
- Several suggestions for assessment projects were made, including of W courses, Q courses, and the practice of using 1-credit Ws.
- It was noted that postponing the competition until next academic year would allow the committee time to improve the process and possibly generate more interest.
- Mike Young suggested assessing Information Literacy in some manner. However, Murph Sewall responded that the timing is late to begin any new assessment project in this fiscal year.
- Peter Kaminsky argued that a gap in the Provost's Competition cycle would allow the GEOC to review how well the Provost's Competition is working (i.e. how previously funded proposals translate into actual seats for students).
- Several points were made about the nature of the competition and whether it actually serves as an incentive for faculty to create courses they would not otherwise have created.
- Support was expressed for pushing back the timeline for the competition to give the committee and possible applicants more time to submit quality proposals.

Murph Sewall confirmed that the general consensus of the GEOC was that we would not go forward with a Spring 2013 competition (funding in FYs 14 &15) and will instead propose starting the competition in Fall 2013; this year's unused assessment funds would be repurposed; and that he would meet with Dr. Reis to discuss the possibility of moving forward with Assessment and the Provost's Competition on an alternating annual basis.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Piantek
GEOC Program Assistant