

GEOC Meeting September 26, 2013

In attendance:

Mike Young – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Eric Schultz – Ex-Officio, Ana Maria Marcos-Diaz, Tom Abbott, Tom Long, Tom Meyer, Richard Jones, Laurent Michele, Kathleen Tonry, Wally Madych, Peter Kaminsky, Stephanie Milan

Not present:

Francoise Dussart, Nicholas Leadbeater, Gustavo Nanclares (sabbatical), Olivier Morand, Linda Neelly

Meeting called to order at 12:32 pm.

1. Minutes of the September 5, 2013 meeting

The minutes of the September 5, 2013 meeting were accepted.

2. Announcements

- Guest speaker Sally Reis is anticipated for the second part of the meeting – This was a last-minute change from the previous agenda sent.
- CCing Mike – GEOC “chain of communication” – K. Piantek reminded GEOC members to CC Mike Young on all business-related emails as he has sometimes been left off important correspondence in the past.

3. Subcommittee Reports

CA1

- The CA1 had misunderstood the issues raised about HIST 1600 and LAMS 1190/W. HIST 1600 had previously been approved in the Spring 2013.
- E. Schultz noted that, although the Senate C&C had returned the courses to GEOC for review of the content areas and course descriptions, a second look at original documents submitted indicates that there no longer appears to be a discrepancy based on documents sent by proposer
- “Multidisciplinary” in the course description was not necessary

CA1 Report accepted as submitted.

W

- The committee is still in contact with POLS for more information
- T. Long noted a recurring problem of proposers not submitting justification for W content; they are just doing a copy and paste job

W Report accepted as submitted.

4. Reports and Discussion

Old Business

- A. Course Realignment update (NOTE: Edit wording regarding “largest course?”)
 - M. Young noted that clarification was needed on what “review” of course was in terms of realignment since some departments indicated that their courses had already been “reviewed” when submitted for minor revisions.
 - There was a question as to whether GEOC should we revise online materials in light of some confusions that arose; E. Schultz suggested that we let the process go and see how it works before we revise anything
- B. Computer & Info Lit Competency
 - L. Michele presented a PowerPoint that looked at the current state and differences of these competencies
 - A primary problem is that it has been 10 years since the creation of these competencies and there is now a vastly different cohorts of students
 - It was noted that GEOC relies on departments for alignment; GEOC does not have resources or tools to track compliance

- The conclusion of the presentation was the two competencies no longer make sense in their current form; they need revision
- T. Long noted that he wasn't certain students were really as competent with computers as the presentation suggested
- T. Meyer noted that biggest indicator of poverty is an inability to use a computer
- E. Schultz suggested this be pitched to FYE; M. Young noted that this would not then be the purview of GEOC
- P. Kaminisky suggested the UConn's reference librarians might have a lot of good info/perspective to share on this issue
- The issue was left to rest for now but will be revisited shortly

New Business

A. Sally Reis

- a. While UConn used to be ahead of the curve, new feedback seems to be that Gen Ed at UConn is now outdated
- b. 21-century skills: Communication and Collaboration, Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- c. 80% of faculty now use some sort of hybrid approach to teaching
- d. The Provost's Office only signs about 5-6 substitutions per year
- e. Upcoming Academic Affairs issues: if students matriculate as freshman, they can transfer in up to 90 courses from other institutions – Scholastic Standards unanimously passed a 30-credit max of transfer, only 15 of which can be GEOC. "A UConn degree should be a UConn degree."
- f. This loophole is not used by the majority of students
- g. By and large, students who take prereqs at the Community Colleges don't do well in related courses at UConn
- h. Enrollments at state universities and Community Colleges are down; UConn is up
- i. M. Young asked S. Reis how GEOC would proceed if they decide to eliminate computer competency; S. Reis noted that revisions would likely go through Scholastic Standards, faculty and departments and then the Senate; ideally, GEOC would find out who is effected by the change and consult them
- j. Issue of DFW Courses: DFW courses are often used as "gatekeeper" courses for higher level courses; GEOC's concern is that if they are Gen Ed, they should be accessible to everyone
- k. T. Abbott expressed admiration for GEOC member who said that same scrutiny should be applied to A courses

Meeting adjourned at 1:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Piantek
 GEOC Administrator