

GEOC Meeting October 17, 2013

In attendance:

Mike Young – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Eric Schultz – Ex-Officio, Ana Maria Marcos-Diaz, Tom Abbott, Tom Long, Tom Meyer, Laurent Michele, Kathleen Tonry, Wally Madych, Peter Kaminsky, Scott Campbell, Charles Mahoney, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Linda Neelly, Michelle San Pedro (new Grad Student Rep)

Not present:

Francoise Dussart, Nicholas Leadbeater, Gustavo Nanclares (sabbatical), Olivier Morand, Richard Jones, Stephanie Milan

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm.

1. Minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting

The minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting were accepted.

2. Announcements

- Course Realignment update – A review of the alignment process thus far was given to the committee; the due date for the completion of the alignment form was moved from Oct 30th to Nov 20th by request of some of the departments; this is the day before a GEOC meeting.
- GEOC's website is ready to go live – The GEOC was presented with the new website and asked to provide feedback as soon as possible; E. Schultz suggested that the link to the CAR needed to be on the first page.
- GEOG 4096W: Revision of the catalog description, FYI – The GEOC was informed about some revisions that the Senate C&C made to the course description for GEOG 4096W; the GEOC had no objections.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Q

Discussion

- There was no discussion on any Q-related items. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Q Report accepted as submitted.

CA1

- There was no discussion of the CA1 item. A vote was taken and the motion was passed unanimously.
- The CA1 subcommittee was reminded that ENGL 3320 is still in the CAR for their review.

CA1 Report accepted as submitted.

CA3

- T. Abbot explained the CA3 subcommittee's report saying that the PHAR course met the CA3 criteria, but there were concerns about preparation of non-major students for the rigors of the course. He was uncertain what the CA3 subcommittee's responsibilities were.
- M. Young said that if the CA3 subcommittee believed the course met CA3 criteria, then the report could be passed, and the committee could feel free to express their concerns either to the course proposer, the department C&C, or the Senate C&C.
- It was suggested that language regarding "recommended preparation" be added to the course description.

- T. Abbott and T. Meyer let the report stand, and the course passed with one abstention.
- The CA3 subcommittee was also reminded that BIOL 1102 was still in the CAR for their review.

CA3 Report accepted as submitted with one abstention.

W

- T. Long explained the W subcommittee's report
- A vote was taken on COMM 4220W, EDLR 3300W, and URBN 2000W first; the courses were approved; however, they will not be reported to the Senate C&C until the requested changes have been made and confirmed by T. Long and/or K. Tonry.
- T. Long explained that URBN 4000W still had some issues that the W subcommittee felt needed to be addressed, so they recommended NOT approving it at this time; a vote was taken on this recommendation and passed.
- Finally, T. Long explained that the remaining items (EEB 3209W, EEB 4251W, EEB 4253W, and ENGL 3119W) were simple course deletions and the W subcommittee recommended approval of this action.
- There was some discussion about how the deletion of these W courses might affect department offerings and enrollment, and the W subcommittee agreed that if there was ever a question about negatively affecting department offerings/enrollment, the W subcommittee would investigate; this was not really a concern in this case, however.
- A vote was taken, and the delete course actions were passed.
- The W subcommittee was reminded that EKIN/EDLR 3547W was still in the CAR for their review.

W Report accepted as submitted.

4. Reports and Discussion

Old Business

- A. Course Provost Competition – New announcement draft needed
- M. Young asked the GEOC what they believed the focus of the upcoming competition should be; he noted that the original suggestion of DFW courses came from the Sally Reis rather than Murphy Sewall as previously thought; there was some concern that this focus might too narrowly target specific courses or subject areas.
 - M. Young suggested that, in light of the GEOC undertaking a revision of the Information and Computer Literacy competencies, these areas might be a good focus; there was general consent from the committee.
 - K. Piantek noted that, overall, there are fewer available CA3 and Q courses than other content areas or competencies.
 - T. Long noted that the GEOC is always willing to accept innovative W courses.
 - It was decided that K. Piantek and M. Young would draft a new Provost's Competition announcement for the GEOC's review based on the suggestions received.

New Business

- A. CA1 Guideline Update language issue:
- At the request of the Senate C&C, the GEOC reviewed the statement, "**Three-credit courses** in this category must be supplemented by written/oral and/or performative analysis/criticism" in the CA1 Guideline revision.
 - Suggested change: "courses bearing 3 **or more credits** must be supplemented...." even though there are no 4 credit courses at the moment, the committees did not want to preclude that as a possibility.

- E. Schultz and P. Kaminsky also did some wordsmithing to eliminate confusing / marks; the final version of the statement reads, “Courses bearing 3 or more credits in this category must be supplemented by written, oral and/or performative analysis or criticism.”

The motion passed with one abstention

- B. Discussion of Tom Recchio’s proposal to the Senate WRT Freshman Writing and TA load:
- M. Young informed the GEOC of a motion to the University Senate made in response to a resolution by Dean Jeremy Teitelbaum; the motion was postponed until GEOC could review.
 - The issue is one of workload for Freshman English TAs versus a department budget shortfall.
 - K. Tonry read from the Dean’s letter to the English Department and expressed concern with his contention that it would not affect the quality of teaching in Freshman English.
 - S. Campbell noted that support for general education does not seem to be keeping up with University expansion.
 - C. Mahoney stated that the dean’s numbers compare English to other departments within UConn, but numbers within English departments at peer universities are in line with UConn, generally at a 1:1 ratio.
 - L. Michele expressed that perhaps General Education has set standards for W/English courses that funding resources do not support.
 - T. Long noted that this discussion is part of a larger political discourse about the cost of college.
 - M. San Pedro spoke about the issue of grad fees to stipend ratio that the GSS has been researching and asserted that TAs were definitely not being overpaid.
 - The GEOC tasked the W and CA1 committees to consider Freshman English as a routine part of their realignment review of English (and 9 other departments) this Fall.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Piantek
 GEOC Administrator