

# GEOC Meeting December 12, 2013

## In attendance:

Mike Young – Chair, (Karen Piantek – Admin), Eric Schultz – Ex-Officio, Tom Abbott, Tom Meyer, Wally Madych, Peter Kaminsky, Scott Campbell, Charles Mahoney, Kathleen Tonry, Ana Maria Marcos-Diaz, Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, Mary Ellen Junda

## Not present:

Francoise Dussart, Fatma Selampinar, Gustavo Nanclares (sabbatical), Richard Jones, Linda Neelly, Olivier Morand, Michelle San Pedro, Stephanie Milan, Laurent Michele

Meeting called to order at 12:35 pm.

## **1. Minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting**

**The minutes of the November 21, 2013 meeting were accepted.**

## **2. Announcements**

- A. Provost's Competition – 2 proposals have already been received with at least one other potential; funding is available for 9 fully-funded proposals; GEOC members were asked to continue to advertise the competition.
- B. Updates on "provisional" course approvals – All committees are moving on their outstanding provisional or have reported in regarding reasons that proposals have not moved forward.
- C. Doodle poll results – The committee decided on alternating 10:00am and 1:00pm Thursday time slots for the Spring 2014 semester meetings.

## **3. Guest – Robert Henning presented on the W Course Quarantine Proposal**

- E. Schultz expressed slight concern that separating the courses might be used to thrust change upon the W subcommittee when the W section of the course comes up for review; R. Henning noted that he has considered such a possibility and can't think of a scenario that would really create this problem.
- The Registrar supports the proposal, which only applies to non-content area courses.
- P. Kaminsky asked if the proposal was brought to CLAS as a motion. R. Henning indicated that it was discussed and supported by the committee but not presented as a motion. M. Young asked if GEOC should wait for CLAS to approve before proceeding, but E. Schultz noted that the proposal affects all schools and colleges, not just CLAS and should be under the purview of GEOC.
- **Motion made (Mary Ellen Junda; T. Abbott)** to approve the offering of upper-division, non-W versions of courses as soon as all needed approvals have been obtained by the sponsoring school or college, and while the W versions of these same courses are still under review by GEOC.

**Motion approved unanimously.**

## **4. Subcommittee Reports**

CA1 – The subcommittee had been unsure about the film content of a course under review but received confirmation of two films that are included in the curriculum and now approved of the proposal for ENGL 3320.

**Report approved unanimously as submitted.**

W – The subcommittee provided an update on courses they are reviewing. No action was needed.

## 4. Reports and Discussion

### Old Business

- A. Capacity and Enrollments – GEOC reviewed a statement drafted by W subcommittee in response to a CLAS proposal to grant exemptions from Freshman English to students based on SAT and AP scores.
- The GEOC asked the W subcommittee whether they were seeking input, approval, or other assistance regarding the statement. At this time, they seek input.
  - M.E. Junda asked if there is there a parallel in math with regards to the assessment test. Yes, although the test score is not a prereq but a recommendation.
  - M. Young stated that standardized tests like the SAT have been validated for aptitude, not assessment of competency. He pointed out that they do not ask students to revise, use sources, etc.
  - S. Campbell noted that if we were to get rid of all exemptions today, the university would require 40-50 more sections of Freshman Writing to meet the demand. The question is how much exemption is too much.
  - It was suggested that students who are exempt from Freshmen English could be required to take certain other 1000 or 2000-level W courses (about 971 students this year). E. Schultz noted that this would require a significant portfolio of W courses to be set aside. He pointed out that some other departments will have a real problem setting aside seats in other Ws to meet that kind of need.
  - M. Young also reminded GEOC of the Info Lit requirement and noted that the W courses would also have to be Info Lit certified. The subcommittees are currently working to make Info Lit more meaningful; to then exempt it seems counter-intuitive.
  - K. Tonry expressed the need to acknowledge budget issues while still addressing the concerns of the W subcommittee and GEOC in general. C. Mahoney asked who “owns” Freshmen English. GEOC is responsible for the ethics of it, but not the budget. ENGL is responsible for the budget, so there is a disconnect.
  - S. Campbell expressed that one of the more valuable parts of W courses and Freshman English is the focused attention students get.
  - E. Schultz suggested it might be possible to fund a project to evaluate the skills of students who go through Freshmen English versus AP exemption, especially as the CLAS dean acknowledges the lowering of the quality of the education with the proposed plan.
  - T. Abbott indicated that the sciences don’t think twice about AP exemption, but that another concern is setting a precedent.
  - E. Schultz suggested that a third option might be requiring students who don’t take FE to take a 3<sup>rd</sup> writing course.
  - M. Young asked the W subcommittee to revise their statement based on this discussion.
  - E. Schultz suggested that it might be appropriate for Sally Reis to be brought into the discussion at this point.
- B. Course Realignment Follow-up – None of the subcommittees have begun review yet. This process will kick off in the new year.
- C. Content Area/ GEOC Guidelines follow-up – The info Literacy and Computer Competency subcommittees have begun revision/merging of the two guidelines; no other committees have expressed interest in revising their guidelines at this time.
- D. Computer & Info Lit Competency update (Digital Information Literacy) – See note above.
- E. W Assessment update (1-credit Ws) – The Writing Center received a greater response to the project than expected and is currently outlining plans for implementation.

### New Business

- A. LAMS/PRLS courses change to LLAS – The GEOC was informed of the lump approval of the change in department code for 13 courses from LAMS or PRLS to LLAS (LAMS 1190/HIST 1600; LAMS 1190W;

LAMS 1570/ PRLS 1570; LAMS 3609; LAMS 3635; LAMS 3660W/PRLS 3660W; LAMS 4994W; PRLS 1009; PRLS 3210; PRLS 3220; PRLS 3232; PRLS 3264; PRLS 3270

Meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Piantek  
GEOC Administrator

Appendixes:

### **1. CA1 report on English 3320, Literature and Culture of India**

In our original report re: Engl 3320 and CA1, we noted the following:

"... in looking at the CAR, there is a gap between what it says about fulfilling CA1 criteria, and the syllabus, in particular the emphasis on film study and analysis in the CAR and its non-appearance in the syllabus."

CA1 requested revision of the syllabus to include more detail supporting fulfillment of CA1 criteria, in particular the ethical and philosophical analysis of film. Because this represented a small-scale and quick fix, we recommend an E-vote to approve, subsequent to receiving a revised syllabus for the course.

The proposer's response was as follows:

"*Shree 420* is a film and *Nishant* is a film. The former represents Vedantic themes; the latter rewrites the Ramayana."

Given the clarification above confirming the analysis of film in the course, CA1 recommends approval of the course for CA1.

Respectfully submitted,  
Françoise Dussart  
Peter Kaminsky  
Co-chairs CA1 subcommittee

### **2. W Subcommittee Report 12 December 2013**

BME 3600W

Preliminary review:

Syllabus: Acceptable level of detail related to W courses (minimum pages; revision; W statement; writing instruction)

CAR: Items 40, 41, and 42 are not complete. Submitter Lisa Ephraim has been contacted.

ANSC 3317W

Preliminary review:

Submission is complete and ready for subcommittee review.

MCB 3602W

Preliminary review:

Submission is complete and ready for subcommittee review.

URBN 4000W

Preliminary review:

Syllabus and CAR have inconsistencies. Submitter Edith Barrett has been contacted.

Tom Long and Kathleen Tonry, co-chairs

**3. W course quarantine proposal**  
**December 12, 2013; R. Henning, CLAS**

Overall Goal:

To enable approved changes to non-W courses to go into effect in a timely manner.

Specific Goal:

Enable upper-division, non-W versions of a course to be offered as soon as all needed approvals have been obtained by the sponsoring school or college, and while the W version of this same course is still under review by GEOC.

When appropriate:

When changes approved by the school or college to an existing upper-division course are not likely to impact the W skill component of the course. Examples include: change in course title, content changes, and prerequisite changes that do not affect the English courses required of all W courses.

When not appropriate:

When any change(s) to a course might affect its current standing with GEOC (e.g., open to sophomores, content area, Q skill, etc.)

Nature of agreement:

Departments or programs formally pledge to only offer the (changed) non-W version of any W course currently under review by GEOC. Alternatively, a department or program can choose current practice, and to continue offering both the original version of the non-W and W versions of the course while GEOC reviews the proposed changes to the W version of the course.

Registrar action:

College and school approved changes to catalog copy are made to both the non-W and W versions of the course in the Catalog while GEOC reviews the proposed changes.

An altogether different approach: Expedited GEOC review of these same upper-division W courses.