

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee Minutes  
Meeting Subtitle: “The Committee Engaged in Design Thinking on Species Reassignment”  
10:30am Tuesday, 3 November, 2015  
Senate Conference Room

I. **Opening business**

- A. Meeting called to order at 10:31am
- B. Welcome
- C. Regrets: Mike Darre, Mike Whitney
- D. Minutes of 20 October meeting were e-approved
- E. We will next meet 17 November 2015

II. **Report of the Chair/Representative**

- A. University Senate (P. Bedore) – The budget outlook was presented. The Senate C&C consent agenda passed without comment. The AAUP negotiations were discussed.
- B. Senate Executive (P. Bedore) – The Senate Chairs met with the S.E.C. to plan the next senate meeting. Scholastic Standards reviewed the issue of requiring students to pass the lab to get credit for CA-3 gen eds. Scholastic Standards passed this issue on to GEOC for further discussion. In light of the recent creation of the General Education Assessment Taskforce, GEOC passed the issue to that body. P. Bedore contacted J. Gajewski, chair of the Gen Ed Taskforce, asking his group to examine this issue.
- C. GEOC (P. Bedore) – P. Bedore noted that she brought up objections to the passing of a three-content-area course that was a little sparse on details in the form. Two subcommittees decided to send it back to the proposer, but a third approved it despite limited justification. P. Bedore expressed that she felt this might send the wrong message to the proposer, so she suggested it be returned to the proposer for all content areas, and this suggestion was taken. P. Bedore also spoke to GEOC about the wording of the information they communicate to proposers. She asked that that subcommittee chairs be careful to indicate that there are still stages of approval that a course must go through before it is considered fully approved. Emails that did not include this language have caused confusion with some proposers. After some discussion, it was determined that subcommittee co-chairs will only communicate with proposers if there are issues with courses. All other inquiries should go to K. Piantek.

D. Gen Ed Assessment Task Force (P. Bedore) – Pam met with Jon Gajewski and Gary English on 10/28/15 to discuss the Gen Ed Task Force. The big question for the Task Force is as follows: Does the Gen Ed program meet the needs of UConn students in 2015? P. Bedore noted that the possible answers are 1) Yes, 2) Yes, it does, but we think there should be some modification, or 3) No, it needs to be rethought entirely.

Possible methods of assessment were discussed:

1. Group discussion using design thinking, especially around operating principles
2. Chair approaches various faculty who might have strong views on Gen Ed reform (heads of centers, heads of institutes, associate deans from various colleges, etc.), and these stakeholders will become guests to group discussion
3. Use Sally Reis's questions to department heads to figure out where we might drill down
4. Look at peer and aspirant institutions' gen eds
5. Surveys and focus groups of students, faculty, and alums
6. Town hall

Potential questions for the Task Force to consider were also drafted:

1. Should we have a requirement for "design thinking" in addition to "critical thinking?"
2. Should we have a fine arts requirement?
3. How can various redesign considerations deal with enrollment pressures?
4. Should all gen ed courses have discussion sections? Is there a qualitative difference for students in courses that do/don't include discussion sections?
5. It's hard for students to do a double major in any school other than CLAS. Should this be considered? (probably outside the purview)
6. Should there be a gen ed rule that says students need to pass the lab in order to fulfill the Content Area 3 requirement (currently the rule for W courses)?
7. Should there be a competency in sustainability?

P. Bedore noted that no one expects the Task Force to find that Gen Ed is perfect at UConn. Diversity was the new content area that came out of last redesign, so it is thought there may be new ones again. The Task Force meets again tomorrow.

- A. Karl asked if the Task Force has student representation. P. Bedore noted that the president of the USG is still in the process of finding representation.
- E. Schultz noted that his department was somewhat uncertain about how to answer the questions from the Provost's Office about gen ed.
- S. Wilson asked about the relationship of the assessment to a mission statement and accreditation. She expressed concern that the foci of the Task Force is coming from a reactive position rather than the strategic motivation to build an infrastructure. P. Bedore noted that although the Task Force's report may be used by those putting together NEASC accreditation materials, the Task Force is also

intended to do a formative assessment, just like the Task Force headed by G. English a decade ago.

- E. Schultz noted that the Task Force should consider the academic plan. When the academic plan was last revised, GEOC Chair Michael Young noted a deficit with the attention paid to general education. P. Bedore will pass this suggestion along to J. Gajewski.

E. UICC (P. Bedore) – The UICC meeting for today has been canceled due to lack of business.

F. Curriculum Advisory (“Workflow”) group (E. Schultz) – Michael Young, Eric Donkor, and Jon Gajewski will be involved in the next round of testing. E. Schultz will also try to re-engage Mike Darre.

### III. **Other committee reports**

A. Growth and Development Committee (S. Wilson) – Nothing to report. There have been some issues with meeting times.

B. Diversity (M. A. O’Donoghue) – The committee is meeting this afternoon.

C. Standing Honors Board (D. Hanink) – The committee has not met again.

D. Scholastic Standards (E. Schultz) – The committee has been discussing the issue of requiring students to pass the lab component of a CA3 course in order to pass the course. The issue of students getting a degree with primarily 2000-level courses appears to be mostly in BIOL, so that department will deal with it internally. There was discussion of an alternative academic calendar for some graduate programs, as well as discussions of allowing double majors across schools/colleges without requiring a dual degree.

### IV. **Old Business**

A. New 3000- and 4000-level W courses:

1. Motion to add (E. Schultz, M. Buck) NRE 3345W Wildlife Management Techniques

*Note: This course has been reviewed and approved by GEOC.*

*Discussion*

- Some permissions language that was listed in another part of the form was added to the catalog copy, and some superfluous catalog language was removed.

- Upon checking the existing catalog copy for the non-W version of the course, it was discovered that the W version of the course already exists. **P. Bedore tabled the course** and will consult the proposer.

2. Motion to add (K. Labadorf, M. A. O'Donoghue) WGSS 3718/W Feminism and Science Fiction

*Note: This course has been reviewed and approved by GEOC.*

*Proposed Catalog Copy*

WGSS 3718. Feminism and Science Fiction

Three credits. Recommended Preparation: Any WGSS course.

Feminist approaches to science fiction. Human and non-human embodiments—humans, aliens, and cyborgs—and the social issues their interactions raise: reproduction and colonization; racial, sexual, and gender apartheid; “human” rights and the rule of law.

WGSS 3718W. Feminism and Science Fiction

Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011. Recommended Preparation: Any WGSS course.

*Discussion*

- ENGL pre-requisites and recommended preparation were added to the catalog copy

**Motion to add WGSS 3718/W was approved unanimously.**

B. The General Education Oversight Committee recommends inclusion of the following course in Content Area 2 – Social Sciences:

1. Motion to add (M. Buck, E. Schultz) ANTH 2400 Honors Core: Analyzing Religion

*Discussion*

- No discussion.

**Motion to add CA2 to ANTH 2400 was approved unanimously.**

C. The General Education Oversight Committee recommends inclusion of the following course in Content Area 4 – Diversity and Multiculturalism - International:

1. Motion to add (D. Hanink, S. Wilson) GEOG 2400 Introduction to Sustainable Cities

*Discussion*

- No discussion.

**Motion to add CA4-INT to GEOG 2400 was approved unanimously.**

D. For the information of the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee, the General Education Oversight Committee approved the following course for offering in Intensive Session:

1. GEOG 1200 The City in the Western Tradition

V. **New Business**

A. Revised 1000- or 2000-level courses:

1. Motion to revise (S. Wilson, M. A. O'Donoghue) HIST/AFRA 3206 Black Experience in the Americas (description and cross-listing)

*Note: This course has not yet been reviewed by GEOC for CA1 and CA4-INT status.*

*Discussion*

- It was realized that this course cannot be reviewed yet because it is 3000-level. The Senate C&C's only concerns are the content areas, but these need to be reviewed by GEOC first.
- Members did express concerns about a 3000-level course that is not introductory and has lots of recommended preparation, however. P. Bedore will convey these concerns to the proposer along with the need for a grading scheme in the syllabus.
- The course was removed from further review until GEOC has examined it.

B. New S/U graded courses:

1. Motion to add (E. Schultz, M. A. O'Donoghue) PLSC 3081 Internship Experience

*Discussion*

- E. Schultz noted that his department has been considering how to handle internships. If Senate C&C passes this one, he will suggest his department do something similar.
- There was a question about the requirement to take the credit version during the fall after taking the non-credit version in the summer. Some wording needs to be in the course description to indicate the connection between the two courses.
- This led to a discussion of the logistics of the course. The committee asked what happens to the summer version if the fall course is not taken or not passed.
- There was also discussion of appropriate titles for consistency between the two courses. The permissions for PLSC 3990 would also need to be changed.
- The course was tabled pending clarification of these issues.

C. The General Education Oversight Committee recommends inclusion of the following courses in Content Area 4 – Diversity and Multiculturalism:

1. Motion to add (M. Buck, E. Schultz) WGSS 3718/W Feminism and Science Fiction

*Discussion*

- No discussion.

***Motion to add CA4-INT to WGSS 3718/W was approved unanimously.***

D. For the information of the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee, the General Education Oversight Committee approved the following course for offering in Intensive Session:

1. GEOG 2000 Globalization

Attendees: Pamela Bedore (Chair), Eric Schultz, Dean Hanink, Kathy Labadorf, Marianne Buck, Maria Ana O'Donoghue, Suzanne Wilson, Alexander Karl (student rep)

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Piantek