

April 2002

## Minutes April 29, 2002

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MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

1. Mr. Palmer, Moderator, called the special meeting of the University Senate of April 29, 2002 to order at 4:04 p.m. in Room 3, Bishop Center.

The agenda of the meeting was limited to continued consideration of the Proposal for General Education Requirements dated May 3, 2001 and any amendments pertaining thereto.

The minutes of the special meeting of April 22, 2002 were approved as distributed.

2. Discussion continued on the General Education Requirements proposal – Part Three: Oversight and Implementation.

Ms. Caira **moved** to remove the “CLAS GEOC Amendment” from the table for consideration. The motion to activate the motion to amend was approved. This amendment modifies the C & Committee’s proposal by replacing the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> paragraphs on page 10 of the original C & C proposal with the following paragraphs.

“The GEOC shall be a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Curricula and Courses (CCC).

“The GEOC shall develop proposals for consideration by the Senate Committee on Curricula and Courses to establish the criteria to be used when evaluating courses for inclusion in the list of courses satisfying the General Education Requirements. The Senate CCC will consider proposals from Departments to add and subtract courses from the GER options as is the current practice.

“The GEOC will establish procedures to monitor the effectiveness of the general education and recommend changes to the Senate CCC when appropriate.

“The GEOC shall develop procedures for periodic review of courses that satisfy General Education Requirements to ensure that they continue to meet the criteria adopted by the Senate.

“The membership of the GEOC shall be representative of the Faculty of all the schools and colleges and members shall be appointed following current Nominating Committee practice. There should also be undergraduate student representation. While the members and chair shall be proposed by the Senate Nominating Committee and approved by the Senate, the process of consultation shall include the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Education and Instruction. Since the GEOC is a subcommittee of a Senate committee the chair need not be a Senator.

“Terms of appointment to the GEOC shall be two years, except in the case of student members where a one-year term is appropriate. In addition, one half of the first group of GEOC members shall be appointed for one year to ensure some overlap in membership from year to year. No member shall serve more than two terms of two years. The chair shall serve one three-year term and shall not be reappointed. However, a chair may serve

a two-year term as a member term either directly before or directly after serving as chair.

“The chair of the GEOC shall be responsible for the management of the general education course proposal review process and the continued oversight of the curriculum. Because of the unusually demanding nature of this position, we propose that the chair be given 50% release time and be provided with administrative support. The chair will be chosen in a manner consistent with current Senate practice.”

The impact of the motion on **Part Three: Oversight and Implementation** is shown in the attachment. (See Attachment ~~36~~ 35)

Ms. Caira identified five issues which separate the original proposal and the CLAS amendment: the type of committee, who coordinates/leads the GEOC, the approval process for existing GER courses, term restrictions on the director/chair, and term restrictions on members of the GEOC.

Mr. English **moved** to separate the question into consideration of each of the five issues. The motion to separate was defeated.

Moderator Palmer set the order of discussion sequentially on the five issues. Following discussion on each, a straw vote was taken to assess the will of the Senate. The straw votes were:

1. The Senate prefers that the GEOC be a sub-committee of C & C rather than a standing committee of the Senate by a vote of 27 for, 25 against.
2. The Senate almost unanimously prefers that the leadership function of the GEOC rest in a “chair” appointed by the Senate rather than a “director” appointed by the Chancellor.
3. By a 2 – 1 margin the Senate prefers that existing GER courses be approved by recommendation of the GEOC to the Senate rather than through the C & C Committee.
4. By a wide margin the Senate prefers that GEOC membership eligibility not be impacted by an individual’s service as chair/director of the GEOC.
5. The Senate almost unanimously prefers that a GEOC member may serve two consecutive terms and be eligible to serve again after a hiatus of two years.

Mr. English moved to delete the first sentence on page 2 of Attachment 36.

He noted that passing the motion would make the GEOC a standing committee of the Senate.

The motion was seconded and defeated.

Mr. English moved to delete the last sentence of page 2, paragraph 6 of Attachment 36 beginning "However, a chair...". He noted that passing the motion would separate the position of GEOC chair from membership to eligibility.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. English moved to amend the third (and fourth) sentences of page 2, paragraph 6 of Attachment 36 to read "Normally, no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms of two years each without taking off from the committee for at least two years."

He noted that passing the motion would retain the University Senate C&C proposal specification of GEOC member term limits.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The CLAS GEOC Amendment, as amended, was approved.

The amended **Part Three: Oversight and Implementation** portion of the GER Proposal was approved. Mr. English will edit the final form of **Part Three: Oversight and Implementation** (as amended) to resolve any inconsistencies prior to the final vote on the whole GER Proposal.

3. Mr. Zirakzadeh announced that consideration of the GER Proposal will continue at a special meeting of the University Senate to be held on May 6, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. in the Bishop Center.
4. Mr. Palmer requested that Senators identify amendments to be presented at the next special meeting. Three amendments were identified:
  - a. Modification of Part Three to charge the GEOC to study how to insert "environmental literacy" into the GER (Mr. Clausen).
  - b. Modification of Parts Two (and Three?) to incorporate historical and philosophical concepts in the GER (Mr. Stave).
  - c. Modification of Part Two to prevent "triple-dipping" in the GER (Mr. Mannheim).

Mr. Halvorson requested that the Senate Executive Committee consider how to structure the GEOC to assure that it and the Senate can carry out their charges with respect to general education.

5. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Jordan, Co-Secretary

The following members and alternates were absent from the April 29, 2002 meeting:

Alissi, Albert  
Allenby, Edward  
Aronson, Lorraine  
Austin, Philip  
Beliveau, Barbara  
Bowman, Larry  
Bravo-Ureta, Boris  
Bridges, Judith  
Brown, Scott  
Bushmich, Sandra  
Byrne, Ryan  
Chow, Karen  
Currier, Danielle  
Daucr, Steven  
Dreyfuss, Dale  
Eby, Clare

Faghri, Pouran  
Faustman, L. Cameron  
Goodwin, Paul  
Hart, Ian  
Holsinger, Kent  
Hubbard, Andrea  
Hussein, Mohamed  
Jain, Faquir  
Kendall, Debra  
Kessel, Quentin  
Kobulnicky, Paul  
Maresh, Carl  
Miller, Stuart  
Miniutti, Peter  
Muirhead, Deborah  
Paul, Jeremy

Petersen, John  
Pickering, Samuel  
Pierce, C. Dennis  
Reis, Sally  
Rodin, Krista  
Schwarzenbach, Bradley  
Silander, John  
Stwalley, William  
Sykes, Jennifer  
Taylor, Ronald  
Terry, Thomas  
Thorson, Robert  
Triponey, Vicky  
Usher, Kathleen  
Wang, Tixiang  
Young, Colin

## ATTACHMENT #35

**PROPOSAL FOR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

**PART THREE: Oversight and Implementation**

Comparing the C&amp;C proposal and the CLAS amendment

**Bold indicates additions in the CLAS amendment***Italics (Underlined) indicates deletions in the CLAS amendment*

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The curriculum in degree programs remains vibrant and alive because faculty members constantly attend to it. They debate what is essential and what is optional to a degree program; they assess how the character of individual courses contributes to the whole; and they consider whether courses are properly sequenced relative to one another. If a general education curriculum is to avoid almost instantaneous ossification, it requires a similar level of faculty involvement and on-going attention. Given the responsibilities of the Senate Courses & Curriculum Committee, it is unreasonable to expect this body to add such oversight to their charge.

Therefore, the Committee proposes the creation of a General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC), a faculty group appointed by the Senate and representative of the schools and colleges. This committee will monitor the general education curriculum. This will require a change in the University By-Laws. The creation of a Senate-appointed committee recognizes the policy control of the Senate in matters relating to undergraduate education. This committee will work in association with the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Instruction because this office has university-wide responsibility for the health of undergraduate education and the fiscal resources to address emerging issues. A member of the Vice-Provost's office will be a non-voting member of the committee. Financial support for the activity of the GEOC will come from the Office of the Chancellor.

The GEOC will be charged with:

- reviewing of the university-wide general education program to ensure that its goals are being met;
- development of policy regarding the delivery of the university-wide general education program;
- determining the resources necessary to deliver the new GER. (Number of seats per content area per year, etc.);
- setting the criteria for entrance and exit requirements for all five of the skill areas;
- setting the criteria for approving all course proposals for the Three Content areas;
- approving and monitoring the courses offered in the GER;

New courses, once they have been approved by the GEOC will be submitted to the Senate C and C Committee for formal approval and submission to the Senate. Existing courses, once they have been approved by the GEOC, will be submitted directly to the Senate for final approval.