



GECCo Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 25th, 2025

SCI III 100 Conference Room (FTF)

Zoom Meeting 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Present: Eduardo Montoya, Elizabeth Adams, Kelly O'Bannon, Giselle Degante, John Deal, Billin Zeng, Dan Zhou, Kyle Shaw, Candice Banducci, Jonathan Young, Atieh Poushneh, Deisy Mascarinas (Admin Support)

Guests: Shaylyn Marks, Kim Flachmann

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

1. **Approval of Agenda for Friday, April 25, 2025**

- a. John Deal moves to approve the agenda for Friday, April 25, 2025.
- b. Billin Zeng seconds to approve the agenda for Friday, April 25, 2025.
- c. Objections – None
- d. Abstentions- None
- e. There is unanimous approval.

2. **Approval of Minutes for Friday, April 11, 2025**

- a. Candice Banducci moves to approve the meeting minutes for Friday, April 11, 2025.
- b. John Deal seconds to approve the meeting minutes for Friday, April 11, 2025.
- c. Objections – None
- d. Abstentions- None
- e. There is unanimous approval.

3. **Announcements**

- a. Today's meeting is the last meeting of the academic year.

4. **GE Recertification**

- a. Continue with UDB recertification (GECCo>Recertification>UDB courses)
 - i. SCI 3609: there are inconsistencies between the course description and the catalog.
 - ii. GEOL 3318: did not have reinforcement outcomes, nor were they linked. Prerequisites are not listed.
 - iii. Eduardo to communicate feedback on course recertifications to the respective instructors/departments (SCI 3609, GEOL 3318, and GEOL 3328).

5. **Time Certain – 2:20 PM: Dr. Shaylyn Marks will discuss her FYS research.**

- a. Shaylyn Marks discussed the importance of focusing on freshman seminar as a high impact practice to close equity gaps and enhance student experiences. She highlighted the need to revamp the

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course to make it more relevant and engaging, and suggested incorporating math or writing help center visits, speaking opportunities, collaborative projects, study skills, and potential peer mentoring.

- b. She also emphasized the need to train instructors on the implementation of changes and to continuously assess outcomes.
- c. She proposed a timeline for redesigning the freshman seminar course and collecting data to refine the practice.
- d. Shaylyn discussed the importance of focusing on academic content in Freshman seminars to improve student engagement and retention, which could be the reason for the DFW rates. It may require more faculty involvement in teaching these courses, rather than relying solely on advisors.
- e. The team also discussed the potential for integrating high-impact practices from other universities, such as Fresno State University and Indiana University Purdue University of Indianapolis (IUPUI) into their curriculum.
- f. It was suggested to form a task force to address these issues and improve the overall quality of freshman seminars.

6. **Review and approval of revised language for Area 5C/B3 laboratory course requirements (Box>GECCo>Meeting Materials> 2024-2025)**

- a. Candince Banducci moves to approve the changes to the compendium.
- b. Kyle Shaw seconds to approve the changes to the compendium.
- c. Objections – None
- d. Abstentions- None
- e. There is unanimous approval.

7. **GECCo review of GE program outlines – 2nd batch (pending)**

- a. Second-reader assignments will be shared at the meeting if the second batch is received.
 - i. All committee members to review assigned GE program outlines and provide feedback to Eduardo by next Wednesday or Thursday.
 - ii. The outlines for Computer Science and Electrical Engineering are pending.

8. **Open Forum**

- a. John Deal will not be serving in GECCo during the 2025-26 academic year.
- b. Everyone in the committee will be issued a digital badge as proof of service. It will allow the members to print a certificate.

Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Fall 2025