

Council on General Education Agenda
February 28, 2017
10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140

Presiding: Rocio Rivadeneyra

Present: James Cunningham, Katherine Ellison, Sally Parry, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Jonathan Rosenthal and Vanessa Schulman

Guests: Derek Herrmann Meyers, Assistant Director Academic Services, University Assessment Office

Rivadeneyra called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes

The question was called. Rosenthal made a motion to accept the February 14, 2017 minutes. Ellison seconded. All in favor and none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

2. Anthropology 297, Lost Continents and Sunken Cities (proposed for Humanities)

The proposal was tabled from the previous meeting so that Rosenthal could speak with the department. He met with Chair Skibo and Ryan Gray to discuss the possibility of making the course a 100-level IDS course. They were in favor of making the course a 100-level but did not agree to change the course to IDS. Rosenthal also discussed with Jeri Ryburn and it was decided that the department will re-submit the proposal as a 100-level course. However, they are still pursuing the Humanities designation. Parry reiterated her concern with the precedent that could be established with considering an Anthropology course as a Humanities rather than a Social Science course. She felt the course would be better suited as an IDS course. Ellison asked what the department's rationale was for leaving the course in Anthropology rather than IDS. Rosenthal said the department recognized that the course was interdisciplinary in nature. Parry believed that one of the reasons they wished to leave it as an Anthropology course was so that it could be used to recruit students to the Anthropology major. Due to lack of quorum, the question could not be called. Rosenthal will provide a summary and give to Parry to review. Once reviewed, it will be sent to the Council so that members can vote via email.

3. Sociology 240, People in Places (proposed for ICL)

The proposal was submitted by James Skibo, Sociology and Anthropology Chair. This course is currently a Social Science course. However, the department believes it is a better fit for the ICL requirement. Rosenthal met with Chair Skibo and Ryan Gray to discuss changing the course number and make it a 100-level course. The department agreed to change the course number if it was accepted with the ICL designation. However, they did not agree to make it a 100-level course as they would like to count it as a major course. Parry noted that the course also can serve as an elective for Environmental Science majors. She also noted that ICL courses are usually taken by freshman and expressed concern that they would not be successful in the course if it was left as a 200-level major course. Rosenthal informed the Council that changes had already been made to the Catalog to re-instate the ENG 101 and COM 110 prerequisites so that students must be a sophomore to take the course. Due to lack of quorum, the question could not be called. Rosenthal will provide a summary and give to Parry to review. Once reviewed, it will be sent to the Council so that members can vote via email.

4. English 170, Foundations in Literature for Children (proposed for Humanities)

The proposal was submitted by the Department of English. Rivadeneyra asked if the course was new. Parry confirmed the course was currently being offered. The question was raised if the course currently counts as an IAI course. After reviewing iTransfer.org, it was determined the course did not have the IAI designation. Parry noted that the department should go and ahead and file the official request to have the course counted as IAI. Ellison will follow-up with the department. There was consensus that the course is a good fit for the Humanities category in General Education. Due to lack of quorum, the question could not be called. Rosenthal will provide a summary and give to Parry to review. Once reviewed, it will be sent to the Council so that members can vote via email.

Information and Discussion Items:

5. Proposal to recommend a course on world religions (courses and capacity) Continuation of Discussion

Discussion was continued from the January 31st meeting and was based in response to a request sent from Academic Senate Chair, Susan Kalter. Rosenthal noted that while a new requirement could not be added to general education, new classes could be offered. He believes the Council might have a two-prong approach in this matter. The first is to ask if there is sufficient expertise/desire to teach a new course. The second is to see if content could be infused within courses having the ICL designation. Rosenthal will speak with the chairs of History and Philosophy to gauge interest and capacity to offer new courses or add capacity to existing ones. Parry mentioned that Doris Houston, Professor of Social Work, would like to attend a Council meeting to discuss the possibility of adding a diversity requirement into the general education program. Parry thought it may make the AMALI course discussion less complicated. Rosenthal informed the Council that Associate Provost Jim Jawahar facilitated a discussion between AMALI faculty and faculty engaged in international curriculum to re-visit AMALI's focus. Their proposal will be discussed at tomorrow's University Curriculum Council meeting. Faculty members who served on the committee seemed pleased with the proposal which Rosenthal will share with the Council when he sends out the action items summary.

6. Management and Quantitative Methods 121 (future discussion on placement)

Rosenthal has not heard back yet from the College of Business's Curriculum Committee.

7. Art 100 (future discussion)

Schulman reported that she had assisted with the proposal and it had not been brought in front of the College of Fine Arts yet. It will hopefully be on their agenda this fall.

Meeting adjourned: 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons