

Council on General Education Minutes
January 14, 2020
10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140

Presiding: Rebekka Darner

Present: Brian Aitken, Rebekka Darner, Katie Fisher, Amy Hurd, Lance Lippert, Sally Parry, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Liz Sattler, Georgia Tsouvala, Gary Weilbacher, and Chad Woolard

Darner called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approval of November 19, 2019 Minutes

The question was called. Woolard made a motion to accept the November 19, 2019 minutes. Lippert seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

2. Permission to use Assessment Data

Simmons reminded the Council it had approved a motion to allow Lippert to use the student survey data that was collected as part of last spring's General Education survey. After the last meeting, the question was raised by the General Education Review Task Force as to if it also could have access to the assessment data.

Parry and Rivadeneyra both thought the release of the information to the Task Force was a good idea. Parry also added that if the Council was going to collect data, then it should be used.

The question was called. A motion was made by Rivadeneyra to allow the General Education Review Task Force to have access to the survey assessment data. Parry seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Hurd will release the information to the Task Force.

3. HIS 105 World History (existing course proposed for H)

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled from the previous meeting.

Rivadeneyra questioned if it was a new course or one that was already offered. Darner confirmed the course was already offered and that the request was to allow it to count toward the Humanities requirement. Parry added the course already aligned with IAI requirements and felt the proposal's rationale was reasonable.

The question was called. A motion was made by Parry to approve HIS 105 for the Humanities designation. Tsouvala seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

4. International Studies Minor (program revision)

This item was tabled until the next meeting to allow Dr. Michaelene Cox to attend and address the Council's questions.

5-7. POL/GEO/SOC 103 Thirsty Society: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Water (new courses proposed for NS)

The Council simultaneously discussed all three proposals.

Darner reminded Council members that all three proposals had previously been reviewed by the Council in the fall and had been sent back to their respective proposers for additional information. Specifically, the Council had questioned how the courses could be considered for the NS designation when a lab component was seemingly not present in the course description and syllabi. The courses were re-submitted to the Council with a clearer definition of the proposed lab component.

After reviewing the updated proposal, Darner noted that it bodes the question as to what was proposed was actually considered to be a lab. She added that any lab should already have data analysis in it and therefore, the data analysis lab on the proposal was redundant. However, she added the 10 required labs required for the new courses were more than other courses had that were currently in the NS category.

Lippert thought the departments had committed to answering the Council's question regarding the lab component. Woolard asked why the course was split between three departments and questioned if it was still the same course. Parry responded that it was the same course to be offered by each department and that the departments would share in the teaching responsibilities. She added the departments had been working on building the course for over a year now.

Darner thought it was interesting that if the course was approved, a student could fulfill the NS requirement by taking a Politics and Government (POL) course instead of a traditional science course. Tsouvala asked if instructors from the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment (GEO) would be teaching all three courses or if it would be co-taught among faculty from each department. Lippert responded he believed the courses would be team taught. Rivadeneyra believed each course would be taught by one instructor from GEO and one instructor from either POL or Sociology (SOC). She noted that it was not clear if the instructors would be co-teaching the same course or if it would be two different sections of the course.

After reading through the proposal documents, Rivadeneyra referenced a statement that stated each course would always be taught by a GEO instructor while the POL and SOC instructor would rotate.

The question was called. Rivadeneyra made a motion that pending verification from the proposers that the courses would always have at least one instructor from a NS discipline teaching, to approve all three courses for the NS designation. Aitken seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Hurd contacted one of the course proposers, Dr. Joan Brehm during the meeting. Brehm confirmed a NS instructor would always be included as one of the co-instructors for each course.

8. ECO 138 Economic Reasoning Using Statistics (course revision)

The revision was proposed by Dr. Susan Chen, Professor, Department of Economics.

Woolard asked what the proposed revision was. Aitken responded that the course would be NC if had MAT 252.

The question was called. Aitken made a motion to accept the course revision. Parry seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

9. HON 102A17 Honors Mindset Seminar (course revision)

The revision was proposed by Rivadeneyra.

Rivadeneyra told Council members the proposed revision was to add that the course could not be taken on a pass/fail basis. For internal processes within the Honors Program, a letter grade is required so the Program is requesting the change to close a loop hole.

Aitken explained that with the fluid registration within Campus Solutions (CS), it is easier for students to put courses on the pass/fail grading basis. Unless a course specifically states it cannot be taken for pass/fail, CS will allow a student to put any course on that grading basis. Parry asked if this included major courses, as typically, these courses should not be taken pass/fail. Aitken confirmed that CS allowed it as the system does not recognize if the course is within a student's major at the time of enrollment.

Parry noted this was an issue and asked if a statement was on registration letting students know major courses should not be taken pass/fail. Aitken and Fisher responded they were not aware of such a statement in CS. Aitken added the only information was a link to pass/fail policy, Policy 2.1.12 within registration. Hurd asked where such a statement should reside. Aitken suggested as there was room in fluid registration, it could be put in as part of the pass/fail section. Aitken will follow-up with AT and Web staff.

The question was called. Woolard made a motion to accept the proposed course revision. Lippert seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Information/Discussion Items:

10. IDS 213 Comics, Graphic Novels and Society

Hurd informed Council members of an issue with the recently approved IDS 213 course. The Council approved the new course to be offered for the Humanities designation at the November 19, 2019 meeting. While on circulation, the Department of English raised concerns that they already offered such a course. Hurd gave the department chairperson, Dr. Ricardo Cruz, until Friday, January 17 to respond and will update the Council at the next meeting.

11. NCCU

Hurd told Council members that the Office of International Studies and Programs (OISP) are applying for a program to have visiting faculty from Taiwan teach courses over the summer from July 2-August 1. As part of the program, the Council will be asked to review their courses to determine if any may be counted toward general education requirements. Hurd will provide course information at the next meeting for the Council to review.

Lippert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tsouvala seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Soemer Simmons