

Council on General Education Minutes
April 9, 2019
10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140

Presiding: Rocio Rivadeneyra

Present: Brian Aitken, Rebekka Darner, Amy Hurd, Sally Parry, Carla Pohl, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Kimberly Schneider, Jean Standard, Benjamin Stiers, Gary Weilbacher, Chad Woolard, and Chris Worland

Guests:

Derek Meyers, Assistant Director, University Assessment Services

Rivadeneyra called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approval of January 15, 2019 Minutes

The question was called. Parry made a motion to accept the January 15, 2019 minutes. Pohl seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

2. Approval of February 12, 2019 Minutes

The question was called. Parry made a motion to accept the February 12, 2019 minutes. Worland seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

3. Approval of February 26, 2019 Minutes

The question was called. Aitken made a motion to accept the February 26, 2019 minutes. Darner seconded. All in favor, none oppose. The minutes were accepted.

4. MAT 113A01 Elements of Mathematical Reasoning (new course proposed for Mathematics)

The course proposal was tabled from the February 26, 2019 meeting due to lack of quorum.

Rivadeneyra reminded Council members the course had a co-requisite of IDS 114. IDS 114 was approved by the Council last year. Rivadeneyra also reminded members students who receive a score on the ALEKS placement exam just slightly under the requirement for MAT 113 and need additional support would be eligible to enroll in both courses.

Aitken added the course structure is working. However, the issue resides with Campus Solution's inability to recognize which students should enroll in both courses. By creating a decimalized version for MAT 113, it will be easier to maintain correct enrollments.

Parry asked how many students had taken the course. Aitken believed approximately 20 students had taken it in the fall and was unsure of enrollment for spring. The course will also be offered next fall. Aitken added the addition of the course has been especially helpful for Nursing students who made up the majority of last fall's enrollment.

The question was called. Pohl made a motion to approve MAT 113A01 for the Mathematics designation. Stiers seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Simmons will notify Dr. George Seelinger, Chair, Department of Mathematics, of the Council's decision.

5. Environmental Systems Science and Sustainability (ESSS) (QR Category Exemption Request)

The exemption request was submitted tabled from the February 26, 2019 meeting due to lack of quorum.

Rivadeneira reminded Council members the ESSS major was relatively new. Dr. Dagmar Budikova, Chair, Department of Geography, Geology and the Environment, had been in contact with Aitken regarding the exemption request to determine which designation exemption would make the most sense for the major. Based on course criteria, it was determined an exemption from the QR designation would be appropriate.

Aitken noted the major required an advanced statistics class. Parry added she felt the request seemed appropriate.

The question was called. Aitken made a motion to approve the QR category exemption request for the ESSS major. Darner seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Simmons will notify Budikova of the Council's decision.

6. Northern Consortium UK (NCUK) Course Articulation

Hurd gave Council members background information regarding NCUK.

The Northern Consortium UK is a group of 16 universities including Manchester, Sheffield, Bath, Liverpool, Kent, Bradford, as well as other institutions. NCUK operates a common foundation program with a single curriculum that is held to exceptionally high standards of consistency in grading. It has been validated by UK NARIC (the UK government academic credentialing body) as equivalent to the A level examinations, and on par with AP exams. NCUK operates a series of offshore foundation program campuses globally with recruitment potential for the US INTO partner universities.

Students study in their own country at a study center using highly prescribed, rigorous modules (equivalent to US courses). Students complete the modules and then transfer to any of the universities within the consortium with guaranteed admission to finish their degree. These students may also transfer to universities outside of the consortium but are not guaranteed admission.

Parry added she had been working with both Dr. Jonathan Rosenthal and Hurd on course articulations for INTO. Course information was sent to the respective departments for evaluation and feedback late in the fall semester. A handout was distributed to Council members with the proposed articulations based on the feedback that was received by those departments.

Darner asked what NMEL credit was. Aitken responded NMEL stood for Non-Major Elective credit. Parry added this meant the exam did not transfer in as a specific course credit but could still apply toward meeting a category requirement such as Fine Arts. Aitken also added this designation meant the exam credit could not be used toward a major elective.

Standard asked for clarification in regards to the term “half-math.” Parry responded that meant the student took the course for half a year as opposed to a full academic year. Standard also questioned the inclusion of MAT 145 credit in the *Further Maths* module, in addition to, the *Engineering* and *Science* modules. Parry responded part of the confusion is centered on how NCUK divides their categories. She spoke with Seelinger regarding the *Further Maths* credit. According to Parry, Seelinger felt students who passed the exam would not have enough background to be successful in the advanced-level calculus class but would be at the basic Calculus course.

Worland asked about the number of credits a student would receive upon successful completion of the *Arts and Design* module as three articulations were listed but it appeared the student would only receive three hours of course credit. Parry responded if the student was a native student, he/she would only receive the General Education equivalent while a transfer student would only receive the IAI equivalent. Each student would receive the same amount of credit hours but the articulated requirement could be different based on what population the student belonged to.

Aitken questioned the credit for the *Government and Politics* module as the wording made it seem as though students would receive both Social Science (SS) and Individuals in Civic Life (ICL) credit for the exam. Rivadeneyra also questioned why there wasn't IAI equivalent credit for the module. Parry responded the IAI descriptor for Politics applied more toward American politics and government. The course content students focus on for the examination applies toward British politics and government which is why there was no IAI equivalent. Parry went on to agree with Aitken that there should be an “or” notation as students could receive credit for either the SS or ICL designation but not both.

Council members noted the same “or” notation needed to be added to the *Society and Politics*, *Economics*, *Biology*, *Chemistry*, and *Physics* module descriptions as well. Hurd will work with Aitken to make the corrections. Aitken added as long as the departments were in agreement with the articulations, he did not see an issue with the request pending the mentioned corrections.

The question was called. Parry motioned to approve the NCUK course articulations pending the corrections made to the noted modules. Woolard seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

7. IDS 121A20 Modern and Contemporary Italy in Italian Studies (new course proposed for LH)

The course was proposed by Dr. Jonathan Druker, Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LAN).

Rivadeneyra told Council members the course was an Italian film course and reminded everyone IDS 121 courses were part of the Texts and Contexts series. After reviewing the proposal, Parry mentioned the Council has usually approved IDS decriminalized course requests. In the past, those proposals have sometimes had somewhat vague learning outcomes. However, Parry felt Druker had provided a detailed syllabus and the course had enough content in it to qualify for the LH designation.

Aitken agreed with Parry and asked if there was a page expectation in terms of writing for a LH course. Parry thought there probably was such a requirement but could not recall what it may be. However, she noted with the two papers, two essay exams and 10 in-class writing assignments, the course made a serious effort to cover the writing requirement.

The question was called. Parry made a motion to approve IDS 121A20 for the LH designation. Darner seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Simmons will inform Druker of the Council's decision.

8. MQM 120 Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in the Workplace (new course proposed for ICL)

The course was proposed by Dr. Katina Thompson, Associate Professor, Department of Management and Quantitative Methods.

Upon review, Rivadeneyra questioned if there was a clear distinction regarding requirements between the SS and ICL categories. Parry responded, originally, the distinction revolved around students having to complete the Constitution exam. The ICL designation was a way for students to still have exposure to American politics, government and centered on US Civic Life. As students no longer are required to complete the Constitution requirement, the ICL category has morphed over time.

Standard then asked what the distinction was then between the United States Tradition (UST) and SS designations. Parry responded the UST category focused more on American content while SS focused slightly more on science.

Parry felt the course did not seem to fit the ICL category. Standard added she felt it would make a good course for the proposed IDEAS graduation requirement. Parry agreed but thought it may be best to table the proposal until the Council could find more detailed descriptions for the category designations.

Rivadeneyra expressed her understanding of the frustration instructors feel when proposing new courses as there seem to be no clear definitions or distinctions between several of the categories. She noted the learning objectives associated with the categories are fairly broad. Parry added if the IDEAS proposal is passed by the Academic Senate, the Council will be seeing more requests like this. She recommended the Council take the time now to clearly define the category descriptions.

Darner asked that the NS and SMT category requirements be reviewed as well. Parry agreed that it was a good idea to review them as well as course requirements have changed over time in regards to when a laboratory component is required.

Parry suggested the Council place this category review on their agenda for next year. She added the College of Arts and Sciences used to have a specific outline of category definitions that she will try to locate to assist in the review.

The proposal was tabled until the Council could determine a better ICL category definition.

9. HSC 206 Global Health (new course proposed for SS and AMALI)

The course was proposed by Dr. Alicia Wodika, Associate Professor, Department of Health Sciences.

Parry thought the Council should table this course as well and asked if global health would be considered a social science. Darner thought it could be depending on how the content was dealt with. Parry believed it was a good course but did not feel the course fit the SS designation. She added she did not feel it would be articulated as an AMALI course either. Standard added the course would have to go to the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) to be considered for the AMALI designation.

Aitken asked if Health Sciences wanted to offer the course in the upcoming fall semester. Parry responded that it was too late anyway for it to be approved for fall.

Worland added that it may possibly qualify as an AMALI course. If one looks at the list of specific countries discussed during the course, it may be possible the course meets the 75% threshold required for the AMALI designation. Weilbacher wished the proposal was more consistent in regards to its definitions. For example, he pointed out Africa was not a country and while the Middle East could technically be considered, it would be somewhat problematic in terms of the definition of what defines an AMALI course.

Standard reiterated if the department wants the course to be considered for the AMALI designation, it will need to be sent to the UCC for consideration and must follow the AMALI procedure which is a separate process. However, the Council could still determine if the course met the requirements to have the SS designation.

As discussed earlier with the MQM 120 proposal, Council members felt a clearer definition of the SS category was needed in order to make a determination on the course.

The proposal was tabled until the Council could determine a better SS category definition.

Information Items:

10. 2019-2020 Meeting Dates/Times

In recent years, the Council has had issues establishing a quorum for its meetings. The Council meets every other Tuesday, from 10am-11am during the academic year. Simmons asked if a different date or time would assist with member's ability to attend meetings.

It was noted that student representatives did not attend meetings this year. Simmons worked with the SGA during the year for representatives and contacted the sixteen individuals she was given. Unfortunately, the students either never responded, had schedules that conflicted with the meetings, were not interested on serving on the Council, or said they would join the Council but did not attend. Parry suggested the Council write a short statement regarding the Council and send to academic advisors to distribute to their students. In addition, Rivadeneyra asked Council members to send her names of students they thought may be interested in serving on the Council.

Council members asked to keep the meeting date/time the same for the upcoming year. Simmons will go ahead and schedule meetings for the next year.

Pohl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rivadeneyra seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons