

Council on General Education Minutes
September 5, 2023
10-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Amy Hurd

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Rocio Rivadeneyra, and Chris Worland

Guests:

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

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

Action Items:

1. Election of Chair

Hurd opened the floor for nominations. Braswell nominated Ferrence to serve as chair. Rivadeneyra seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed.

Hurd turned the meeting over to Ferrence.

2. Approval of April 18, 2023 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. WGS 177 Queer Theatre (new course proposed for FA designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Jacklyn Weier, Assistant Director, Women, Gender and Sexuality (WGSS) Office.

Ferrence noted the course was being offered currently as THE 176A01. His understanding was that the proposal was to move the course under WGSS and to also propose it for the IDEAS designation. Aitken informed Council members that THE 176A01 is a topics course and Queer Theatre is one of the topics currently being taught. Ferrence added the proposed course had no prerequisite requirements and thought the move to WGSS showed a positive intent to be more inclusive to students outside of the Theatre major.

Worland asked if the intent was to offer the course every semester or once a year. Aitken responded currently THE 176A01 was being taught once a year. He was unsure of WGSS' current faculty and graduate assistant resources which would impact the scheduling of the course. Worland asked if the course would be open to anyone. Rivadeneyra confirmed it would be and that it would help students wanting to minor in WGSS. She added that many students do not realize what topic will be taught when registering for a topics course so having it broken out in a new course like this would be helpful to students. Braswell noted that the schedule of topics was listed on the proposal but not included in the syllabus. Hurd will ask Weier to include it.

Worland made a motion to approve WGS 177 for the FA designation. Rivadeneyra seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

4. IDS 310 Innovation Consulting Community (new IDS course)

The course was proposed by Dr. Peter Kaufman, Professor, Department of Marketing.

Ferrence noted the proposal was for a new IDS course with a prerequisite of having a 3.0 gpa or higher to enroll. He noted that a course syllabus was not included as part of the proposal.

Hurd explained the course focused on design thinking. Projects are submitted from both campus and the community. Students and faculty come together to approach these projects from an interdisciplinary perspective. Kaufman has been offering the experience for students for several years, but students have not received credit. He approached Hurd as to how students could receive credit for the experience going forward and has submitted proposals for this course and for IDS 410 as there is graduate student involvement as well. Hurd felt the course description could be edited to provide a better description of the course experience.

Rivadeneyra understood given the nature of the course, it would be difficult to provide a detailed syllabus but felt a basic topical outline, book requirements, and course expectations should be provided. Ferrence asked if the University had a syllabus template for 290 courses as they are similar in nature to this course based on their description. Aiello added even if the projects are all different, there should still be a standard process the course will follow, grading scale, etc. Ferrence agreed and wondered how students know how grades would be assigned. Worland added design thinking is a very defined process with touch points and meetings with faculty and there should be a definition of at least those minimum expectations included in the course syllabus. Hurd will ask for a course syllabus to be included in the proposal.

Ferrence asked if there was a concern that by getting three credit hours now, is students will not want to take course as they would now be charged for it. Hurd did not think that would be an issue. Rivadeneyra asked if the course would count in the Entrepreneurship minor. Hurd thought they would want it to be an elective course and that she would ask Kaufman. Rivadeneyra then asked if it was possible to block students from registration who did not meet the minimum 3.0 gpa requirement. Aitken confirmed Campus Solutions could block for gpa as a prerequisite. Antink Meyer asked if the course should be repeatable for credit. Hurd will ask but noted if the course is repeatable for credit, students will be unable to replace a previous grade.

Worland made a motion to table the course pending receipt of a syllabus and clarification on the Council's questions. Aitken seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

5. Gerontology Minor (IDS Minor revision)

The revision was proposed by Dr. Joan Brehm, Chairperson, Department of Sociology & Anthropology

Ferrence noted the revision included a change from Gerontology to Social Aspect on Aging and a reduction of required hours from 21 hours to 18 hours. He thought it was positive the proposal called for the reduction in total hours. He added that in the list of elective courses, FCS 394 was stricken with no reason given and HSC 394 was added.

Aitken explained the 394 course, Health Aspects of Aging, was a cross-listed course offered by Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), Kinesiology and Recreation (KNR), and Health Sciences (HSC). He assumed the FCS course was removed as they would no longer be offering the course. He also noted that if a student took KNR 394, they would also receive credit for the elective requirement. Hurd and Rivadeneyra noted that cross-listed courses should all be the same but that does not always happen.

Aiello asked if IDS minors were open to any student. Hurd confirmed they were. Aitken asked with the title revision to Social Aspect on Aging if references to the Gerontology Committee and Coordinator should be updated as well. Hurd will ask Brehm to review and make an editorial revision if needed.

Aitken made a motion to approve the minor revision. Braswell seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

6. IDS 121A72 Texts and Contexts: Place as Text: Scotland (new IDS course proposed for LH designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Linda Clemmons, Director, Honors Program.

Simmons informed the Council an updated proposal had been submitted prior to the meeting. The revised proposal requested the course be considered for the LH designation. Ferrence noted there was reference to ReggieNet in section four of the proposal but found Clemmons had updated the reference to Canvas in the revised proposal. Rivadeneyra asked if other IDS 121 courses had the LH designation as well. Aitken confirmed they did.

Worland made a motion to approve IDS 121A72 as a new IDS course for the LH designation. Braswell seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Information Items:

7. University Curriculum Committee Name Change

Hurd informed Council members a name change had been approved changing University Curriculum Committee to Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

8. Curriculum Software Request for Purchase (RFP) Update

Hurd informed Council members the curriculum software RFP has been released for bid. The new software is to replace the catalog and current curriculum proposal process. Hurd added it is hoped that the new software could also help with scheduling and predicting seat needs but she wasn't as optimistic the software would be able to manage those requirements as well. Bids are due to the University by September 23. Vendors will then be invited to campus to give demonstrations. Hurd thought the demonstrations would occur around the third week of October. Council members will be invited to attend sessions. Hurd will send out additional information and meeting invites once those dates are set.

9. General Education Revision Update

Hurd gave Council members an update on the General Education revision process. Mic less town halls will be held on September 15 and September 29 to gather campus feedback. In addition to the town halls, an online survey will be available on the General Education website to collect feedback. Feedback will be given to the General Education Executive Committee for review and possible edits. Once completed, the proposal will then come to the Council for review.

Worland made a motion to adjourn. Hurd seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons