

Council on General Education Minutes
September 21, 2021
10-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Chris Worland

Present: Brian Aitken, Mary Elaine Califf, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Genevieve Fritz, Amy Hurd, Allison Antink Meyer, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Indira Robinson, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

Guests:

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative
Jeff Nix, Instructional Assistant Professor, School of Kinesiology and Recreation
Donald Reed, Program Director, University Housing Services

Worland called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approval of September 7, 2021 Minutes

Worland asked if there were any corrections to the September 7, 2021 minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

2. KNR 175 Leisure's Role on Individuals and Society (existing course proposed for ICL)

The course was proposed by Dr. Michael Mulvaney, Professor, School of Kinesiology and Recreation. Discussion was tabled due to lack of quorum and additional questions by the Council. Mulvaney submitted additional information for the Council to review.

After reviewing the additional information, Worland felt the course, for him, was a better fit for the ICL designation. Ferrence agreed now that the political aspects were better called out in the revised documents. Nix explained that when thinking of civic life, especially in the United States, leisure overlaps many aspects of civic life. These aspects range from the environmental, political, and recreational, to social movements as well. Politics and leisure are intertwined. Nix further explained most agencies in each county in Illinois are established by the government so there is a strong overlap in leisure and civic life in this State.

Hurd noted a new syllabus had been uploaded and sections had been highlighted to illustrate the changes made to the proposal. Ferrence appreciated the additional information provided regarding the mechanics of the course and noted changes had been made to better explain the impact on civic life, and political science in the course overview. In addition, the impact on government was now specifically called out in the learning objectives and additional topics and examples involving civic life were now included. Rivadeneyra approved of the additional information and felt her previous concerns regarding the civic life aspect had been addressed. She now felt the course would fit within the ICL designation.

Worland and Califf agreed that the updated information helped to alleviate their respective concerns for the course fitting the ICL designation requirements. Worland noted during the Council's previous discussion during its last meeting, it was difficult to make sense of the connection without the historical context now provided in the proposal and description. Nix noted the School had reviewed other

General Education designations, but in the end, as the course is so directed by politics, felt the ICL designation was the best fit. He added he would be teaching the course and had taught a similar course for 15 years at his prior institution.

A motion was made by Antink Meyer to approve KNR 175 for the ICL designation. Califf seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

3. IDS 99A01 Identity in Residence Hall Communities (new course)

The course was proposed by Brian Johnston, Area Coordinator, University Housing Services. The course was discussed at the previous meeting. Discussion was tabled and the proposer was asked to provide additional information to the Council.

Worland reminded Council members as the course was a new IDS course, the Council is the approving body. He explained to Reed that some of the questions Council members had during their previous discussion revolved around the fact that the course description and syllabi provided for IDS 89A01 and IDS 99A01 appeared to be the same. Worland asked how the courses were different.

Reed responded that for the first year, all resident assistants (RA) will be put in one course with the intent next semester to assess what the needs of University Housing will look like. The initial plan going forward was for all new RAs to enroll in IDS 89A01 the first semester and any continuing/returning RAs to enroll in IDS 99A01. University Housing plans to offer a more in depth review of relevant/timely topics in the IDS 99A01 course and have the course provide a more in depth look at how social communities can help build identity.

Worland asked if the plan was to have everyone take IDS 89A01 first so everyone would start in the same place, regardless if they were new or returning. Reed responded for fall that would be correct and then to differentiate more in the spring semester as staff would like to run a curriculum-based program. Rivadeneyra and Wood noted they would like to see the planned curriculum for the course. Antink Meyer noted there were explicit learning outcomes, and asked if they were sequential or would be fluid in order to react to social/environmental change. She added it would be helpful to see how the outcomes mapped out across experiences and assignments.

Reed said the outcomes were not sequential and staff had not yet made a decision regarding the order. He added staff was still working on the article and topic discussions they would like to cover and are planning on using the first offering of 89A01 this fall as an assessment on what needs to be covered in 99A01. Once University Housing has feedback, they plan to use it to help better flush out the course shell for 99A01.

Worland asked what the deadline was to have a course approved for spring. Simmons responded October 1st was the deadline to have a course approved in order for students to see it in the course offerings. Hurd added if need be, the deadline could be extended. Reed asked what additional information the Council would like to see added to the shell in order to make a decision on the course. Worland would like to see a listing of potential topics and readings that are different from those in IDS 89A01. Califf added that the University has topics courses and the Council realizes things change. She asked if Reed could provide an example of what topics could be so that the Council could get a sense of

what the intention of the course would be. Reed asked for verification that University Housing could change topics if needed from what was provided to the Council. Califf confirmed topics could be changed. Worland added the list of readings could change as well. He would just like to see a representation of the level of engagement that would be required from students.

Rivadeneira didn't believe there was enough information provided that would allow the Council to take a vote at this time. Hurd informed the Council that if necessary, the course could be offered as a temporary course until University Housing had time to reconfigure the course. Ferrence noted that it seemed unusual for the course to be worth 0 credit hours but still have students earn a letter grade. No matter what effort students made, there would be no impact on gpa. He asked Reed why the course was offered for a letter grade as opposed to credit/no credit. Aitken noted that the Council missed that on the IDS 89A01 proposal but added there are other active courses at the University that have the same configuration.

Reed thought it may have just been a semantics issue and that Housing just wanted to have cutoffs to prevent students from doing the bare minimum and earning a credit grade if the course was offered as credit/no credit. Hurd responded University Housing would just need to figure out what it needed. Reed noted they were not married to either grading option and that they just wanted to be able to express to students what the minimum standard would be in order for them to remain an RA.

Ferrence asked how flexible University Housing would be with those students who could not meet during the scheduled class times due to other required courses or commitments. Reed responded that they have already seen such conflicts. He explained each instructor has the flexibility to make other arrangements with any student who has a legitimate conflict but it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and make different arrangements.

A motion was made by Ferrence to table the discussion pending receipt of additional information. Aitken seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

4. IDS 231 Civic Engagement in a Global Community (new course proposed for ICL designation)

5. IDS 232 Civic Engagement in the United States (new course proposed for ICL designation)

The Council chose to review and discuss items four and five together as they are related. Both courses were proposed by Katy Strzepek, Director, Center for Civic Engagement.

Worland reminded Council members the biggest issue when discussing both courses previously was that the same documents were uploaded for both courses by mistake in the Curriculum Forms system. Strzepek provided new documents for the IDS 232 proposal. Worland noted that while there was quite a lot of similarities between the two courses, there seem to be enough differences between the two to warrant having two separate courses.

Califf expressed concern regarding how well having both be variable hour courses will work and questioned if it was necessary. Hurd responded her understanding based on conversations had with Strzepek last spring, those students participating in the global experiences/trips would be required to take the course for three hours. Aitken asked if anyone was going to be overseeing the course to verify

students registered for the correct number of hours. Hurd responded that we would have to trust that students would register correctly and that Civic Engagement planned on having a communication plan to explain registration options to students.

Wood asked if the only difference between the two courses the required readings was as otherwise, the syllabi looked identical. Hurd responded there were domestic vs. international differences between the courses. Meyer Antink noted the rationale said the courses were repeatable and questioned if students could participate on several trips. She wondered why the course wasn't offered as a decimalized course for each experience as opposed to having two separate classes. Hurd responded two separate courses were requested due to the AMALI implications.

Califf asked if it had been verified with the Registrar's Office that the variable hours for the courses could be handled correctly by Campus Solutions. Hurd said she had spoken with curriculum staff when the courses were first proposed and was told the system could handle it, but she would re-verify with them. Ferrence pointed out the address given for the Center for Civic Engagement was listed incorrectly as CVS.

Aitken made a motion to approved IDS 231 and IDS 232 pending receipt of confirmation that Campus Solutions could handle the credit hours. Califf asked an amendment be made to Aitken's motion to include Ferrence's recommendation that the CVS address be removed from the syllabi.

Council members further discussed both proposals. Wood felt the syllabi looked too similar to each other and didn't give a sense of what students would actually be doing. She added the topics of the courses, while they could be variable especially for the global course, should still be included on each syllabus. Rivadeneyra felt both courses were more fleshed out in the revised proposals. Wood disagreed and concerns about the weekly schedule provided as well as the minor differences between the required readings for both courses. Council members asked to speak with Strzepek again regarding both proposals.

Aitken rescinded his original motion for approval.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to table the proposals pending meeting with Strzepek for more information. Clemmons seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Ferrence made a motion to adjourn. Califf seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons