

**Council on General Education Minutes**  
**October 5, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.-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, Yvette Pigman, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Indira Robinson, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

**Guests:**  
Katy Strzepek, Director, Center for Civic Engagement

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

**Action Items:**

- 1. IDS 231 Civic Engagement in a Global Community (new course proposed for ICL designation)**
- 2. IDS 232 Civic Engagement in the United States (new course proposed for ICL designation)**

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

Worland reminded Council members both proposals had been tabled at the previous meeting as members wanted to address their concerns/questions with Strzepek directly. Based on recommendations from the Council's previous meeting, Strzepek made changes to both course proposals. Changes included updating and differentiating the course readings for both courses on their respective syllabi, updating and elaborating each course's description and General Education rationale, and including a weekly calendar breaking down expectations in regard to coursework/assignments. As noted in the previous discussion, the Center for Civic Engagement's address was corrected on both proposals.

Strzepek told the Council she appreciated their suggestions and worked with staff to better differentiate the US vs. the Global experiences between the two courses which included creating a student model to help analyze both experiences. As an example of a social issues project for IDS 232, Strzepek explained students would focus on articles and comparative issue regarding the Mississippi River. Staff are currently thinking about relevant placement and service projects surrounding the project but readings/texts used would differ from those used for IDS 231 global projects.

Strzepek went on to explain the content/projects for IDS 231 would focus on asset-based partnerships and strive to debunk stereotypes of people who live and work in those communities. Students will be asked to examine their own identities and reflect on social issues from a programmatic perspective. Assigned readings will be based on the specific location or social issue identified for the course during a given semester but Strzepek provided a framework of what would be covered for an upcoming Kenya experience. In addition, Strzepek provided additional information regarding the number of credit hours students would earn based on course and hours of service at each location.

Worland thanked Strzepek for providing the additional information and asked if Council members had any additional questions. Ferrence noted he liked the proposed revisions for both courses. He

wondered if as part of the inclusiveness of experiencing other cultures if students would be allowed to drink alcohol during free time, especially those who would not be allowed to imbibe in their local culture/communities. Strzepek responded students would be doing an intensive immersion into the new culture and that may or may not allow for drinking as per the local customs. However, she added students would be expected to participate in at least eight hours of work daily on the community projects, in addition to nightly meetings and working on daily reflections so they would be pretty tired and not left with much free time to engage in other outside activities. Wood praised Strzepek and her staff for their efforts on both revisions and noted her initial concerns had been addressed.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to accept both IDS 231 and IDS 232 as new courses for the ICL designation. Wood seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

### **3. Ethnic Studies Minor (minor revision)**

The minor revision proposal was submitted by Dr. Susan Kalter, Professor, Department of English.

Worland noted the revision proposed lowering the hours requirement from 22 hours to 18 hours which made sense to him as 22 hours is an odd requirement. It also removed some of the more specific technical language that was more advisor specific. Aitken agreed the language was probably not needed for students and most likely not read as it was more focused on the finer details. Fritz disagreed and noted she appreciated including the finer details as she, in the past, had received incorrect information from her advisor. Fritz added if similar language had been included regarding her minor situation, it may have been avoidable.

Califf asked if the information listed was no longer relevant. She questioned why only one version of HIS 104 was listed while multiple versions of IDS 121 were included. Hurd thought the intent was to open up the minor to more students by making the available list of course options broader. Califf disagreed and thought the proposal's language may actually preclude students from being allowed to take certain courses to fulfill the minor. Wood agreed the wording used was strange. She added it made it sound as though the minor doesn't want to make exceptions but would leave the option open in regard to what would be allowable for students to take to complete the minor.

Aiken noted the use of the "prefer" is used quite a bit in course proposals/descriptions. Ferrence agreed and added it is seen in catalog copy while saying repeatable elsewhere. Califf noted the umbrella description for IDS 121 does not mention anything along those lines and the descriptions for HIS 104 courses are listed differently. Hurd said HIS 104 had a not for credit statement if students had already had HIS 103. Rivadeneyra noted HIS 103 was the precursor to the HIS 104-course series.

Wood felt the language at the top of the proposal was confusing as it discussed different minor programs. Given the way it was worded, she wondered if students would be completing those minors alongside the Ethnic Studies minor. Califf noted the wording is what is currently being used. Aitken confirmed the minors listed were four separate minors and students could pursue each separately if they wanted. Wood asked the inclusion of the other minors was just to serve as advertising for those minors. Califf thought that was most likely as students who may be interested in pursuing the Ethnic

Studies minor may want to focus on specific groups instead. The inclusion of the information was just done as a service to students.

Hurd noted the University Studies reference needed to be removed from the proposed catalog copy as the program no longer exists. Worland said he would contact Kalter to remove the reference and if the items that were currently struck through on the proposal should actually be kept or language regarding a preference should be added instead. Hurd responded the Group 4 strikethroughs were correct and needed. Califf believed a decision should be made about what to do with HIS 104 and IDS 121 language. Presently, the proposal suggests students would be allowed to complete the courses, but it would be discouraged. Ferrence suggested adding language along the lines of student may only be allowed to repeat either course for the minor with permission.

A motion was made by Fritz to table the proposal pending receipt of additional information. Califf seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

**Discussion Items:**

**4. IDEAS Update**

Hurd informed the Council the IDEAS graduation requirement was approved by the Academic Senate. The requirement will go into effect with the fall 2023 incoming class. Looking ahead, courses proposals would need to be to the Council for review by November 22, 2022 in order to make the 2023-2024 catalog. Incoming transfer students who have a "D" designation on their transcripts will have fulfilled the requirement and will not be required to complete the IDEAS course. Hurd will share more information regarding the course proposal process at a later date.

Rivadeneira made a motion to adjourn. Califf seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons