

Council on General Education Minutes

November 1, 2022

10-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Mary Elaine Califf, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Joseph Goodman, Amy Hurd, Yvette Pigman, Rocio Rivadeneyra, and Chris Worland

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

Action Items:

1. Approval of October 18, 2022 Minutes

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

2. IDS 189A01 Texts and Contexts: Leisure, gaming and culture (new course proposed for LH designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Rachel Shively, Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Ferrence explained the course was a new IDS course proposed for the LH designation. Goodman noted that based on the course's title, his first impression was that it was geared more toward computer science and/or coding. Hurd responded that the content was more culture-based.

Clemmons informed Council members that instructor and co-author, Dr. Marc Niclas Heckner, was currently teaching a similar course as an honors seminar this fall as a one-hour course. Additional content has been added to the syllabus making it too much for a one-hour course. Ferrence noted that according to the syllabus, the course was only a seven-week course. Califf thought the syllabus was light for a three-hour course.

Hurd told Council members the course was currently being offered for fall as a temporary course. There was a need this fall for additional LH courses, as well as additional second-half semester courses. Ferrence asked if the course was truly a half-semester course. Hurd verified it was and that it met more than once a week. Ferrence pointed out it was also offered as an asynchronous online course and thought the topics were interesting. He expressed surprise the department had not requested consideration for the IDEAS designation as well as there was opportunity to have hard conversations during the role-playing aspect of the course. Rivadeneyra responded that at least 75% of the course content would need to focus on diversity in order to qualify as an IDEAS course.

Worland noted that based on the LH designation description, the course seemed to meet the writing intensive requirements for the designation. He added he thought the course was laid out well. Ferrence expressed concern that it was unclear the amount of writing students would be required to do. Hurd pointed out as the course would be offered asynchronously, the assignments/requirements would all be written. Rivadeneyra wondered how much feedback students would receive for the eight weekly assignments and if it would be enough for students to improve their writing skills.

After hearing Ferrence and Rivadeneyra's concerns, Worland thought he may have originally been too generous in his initial assessment of the writing and wondered if additional information was needed from the department. Council members agreed there needed to be additional supporting information in the syllabus in order to make a decision. Members would like to see how extensive the writing assignment expectations would be, as well as the amount of feedback students are expected to receive. In addition, Worland noted students should be able to look at the syllabus and see clearly that the course is writing intensive and what the expectations are of them. Rivadeneyra suggested the syllabus should be updated to match the course proposal.

A motion was made by Worland to table the proposal for additional information from the department regarding the concerns outlined above. Goodman seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

3. SED 101 Disability, Learning, and Education: Foundations and Philosophy (revised course proposed for UST designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Yun-Ching Chung, Professor, Department of Special Education.

Ferrence thought the proposal was interesting and asked what constituted the UST designation and how it was defined. Worland reminded Council members of the definition for the UST designation and remarked how broad its definition is. He added there was quite a bit of overlap between all of the category definitions but felt the course fit well within the UST category.

Hurd informed members that other UST courses are offered in English, Family and Consumer Sciences, and History to name a few and that many of them are cross-listed courses. She added that few had "America", or "US/United States" listed in the course title. Worland noted in the new syllabus provided, there was a reference to K-12 education. Rivadeneyra responded though that there was no reference specifically to "US" mentioned. Antink Meyer thought it could be assumed as K-12 is part of the education system in the United States. Worland pointed out that the reference to the United States system was spelled out more clearly in the justification document.

Ferrence thought it would be easy to add "US" to call more attention to it and to ensure the course's focus didn't drift over time to be more toward global studies. Council members suggested adding reference to the United States in both the course's title or course description. Council members also discussed the rubric grading system for the course and that the old syllabus mapped out to Illinois Professional Teaching Standards while the new one did not have such mapping. Hurd noted the department could be informed both were discussed but neither were a reason to hold the proposal.

A motion was made by Goodman to table the proposal and ask the department to explicitly add reference to the United States into either the course title and/or course description. Braswell seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

4. Review of IDEAS Panel Applications

At the previous meeting, Council members were asked to review panel applicants and select up to four applicants to serve on the IDEAS panel. Results were tallied and presented to the Council.

A motion was made by Worland to accept the five applicants who had the most votes. Antink Meyer seconded.

9 in favor, none opposed, one abstained.

The motion passed.

Hurd will inform all applicants of the Council's decision.

5. CGE Charge

Hurd informed Council members the Academic Senate voted last week to change quorum requirements. Quorum will now be the majority of seated members and will take immediate effect. Califf reminded Hurd the Council agreed to add the Illinois Articulation Initiative Program Director as an ex officio member. Califf noted the Council had tabled discussion regarding student membership pending the Academic Senate's decision on quorum requirements. Hurd responded that as the quorum requirement had been changed, the Council could leave student membership at four.

Hurd asked Council members if the review of the AMALI graduation requirement should be added to the charge. Califf asked if changes to the AMALI graduation requirement would still need to go to UCC for approval. Hurd thought it would and Califf agreed as UCC is the last reviewing body prior to going before the Academic Senate. Hurd will confer with Academic Senate Chair Horst about this issue since the Council is a stand-alone curriculum committee.

Council members discussed challenges with the current curriculum system's routing process. Ferrence suggested having an outline of the generic workflow to help identify breakdowns at a future meeting. Rivadeneyra agreed and added the other appropriate curriculum bodies would need to have a say in any changes as well.

A motion was made by Worland to accept the changes to the charge as discussed above. Pigman seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Hurd will update and sent to the Academic Senate for review.

Meeting adjourned: 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons