

**Council on General Education Minutes**  
**November 17, 2020**  
**10-11:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting**

**Presiding:** Chris Worland

**Present:** Brian Aitken, Mary Elaine Califf, Rebekka Darner, Katie Fisher, Stella Liao, Tony Marinello, Sally Parry, Carla Pohl, Liz Sattler, Gabby Thompson, Georgia Tsouvala, Gary Weilbacher (left after item 2), Tina Williams, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

**Guests:**  
Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

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

**Action Items:**

**1. Approval of October 20, 2020 Minutes**

Worland asked if there were any corrections to the October 20, 2020 minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**2. IDS 121A68 Place as Text: Barbados (new course proposed for LH designation)**

The course was proposed by Interim Honors Program Director, Dr. Tina Williams.

Williams informed the Council this year's travel experience for the Honors Program was a trip to Barbados. The syllabus, tests, and curriculum for the new course was modeled after existing Place as Text courses focusing on Panama and Cuba. Both of those courses had previously been reviewed and approved for the LH designation by the Council.

Aitken felt the course fell in line with the other approved courses. Parry asked if Honors Program students would be the prime audience for the course. Williams confirmed the course would only be available to Honors Program students but that going forward, she would be open to including non-Honors Program students. Williams questioned if additional essays would be required to have the LH designation. Parry thought the course was similar to other Honors courses and did not feel an additional paper was required at this time as the course required a variety of different types of writing assignments.

A motion was made by Parry to approve the course for the LH designation. Darner seconded.

12 in favor, none opposed, three abstained.

The motion passed.

**3. Ethnic Studies (program revision)**

The program revision was proposed by Dr. Susan Kalter, Professor, Department of English.

Parry noted the proposal represented house cleaning for the program regarding the adding and dropping of courses. She added that all the departments involved approved of the suggested revisions.

Aitken agreed the proposed revisions were reasonable. Parry added the minor looked to become broader in context as it has been overtaken in recent years by minors focusing on specific areas.

A motion was made by Parry to approve the program revisions. Aitken seconded.

13 in favor, none opposed, one abstained.

The motion passed.

#### **Information/Discussion Items:**

#### **4. CGE Charge Review Update**

Worland was invited by the Academic Senate Rules Committee to attend their last meeting to discuss the Council's concerns regarding the proposed revisions to the Council's charge. Worland invited Hurd to attend the meeting as well.

Worland believed they convinced the Rules Committee the chair of the Council should not be limited to faculty only and pointed out that in recent years, the Honors Director had served as chair. He added that part of the discussion included the ability of student members to serve as chair. Worland and Hurd explained the work of the Council is very collaborative and argued the Council had a more expansive view of shared governance than some of those serving on the Rules Committee. Several members of the Rules Committee were adamant faculty be in charge of the curriculum and did not feel it was appropriate for non-faculty to be in charge of the Council.

Worland added the two student representatives to the Rules Committee agreed with he and Hurd in that while students most likely would not want to serve as chair, they would like to have the option to serve. The chair of this committee runs meetings and signs off on proposals. The chair does not drive the agenda. Proposals drive the agenda. Parry noted that if a faculty member chooses to take an administrative role, it is often forgotten that they have faculty status which is frustrating and insulting.

Darner felt that Council members have been able to freely speak their minds, ask provocative questions, and brainstorm in an egalitarian way so currently she did not have qualms with having a faculty chair. However, down the road with as members change, this could change. Califf felt the Council should not be quick to give in to the Rule Committee suggestions.

Aitken pointed out that as a University, aren't we supposed to be encouraging students to pursue leadership positions and prohibiting them from serving as chair seemed counterintuitive. He added that curriculum goes beyond the classroom experience. Thompson felt that having a choice was better than not having one and as a student, she would like the opportunity to serve as chair.

Worland and Hurd left the Rules Committee under the impression they will review the Council's suggestions and will come up with draft language. Worland is unsure if the draft will be sent back to the Council for review before it is sent to the Academic Senate. He and Hurd will follow-up with the Rules Committee and will update the Council.

## **5. General Education Program Review**

Worland informed the Council the topic of a General Education program review was brought up during the Rules Committee meeting he and Hurd attended. The Committee requested the Council discuss what such a review process would look like and come up with a proposal. Parry suggested a review process could be handled similarly to the review process for IAI courses and added assessment is also being considered by the General Education Task Force.

Further discussion will occur when Hurd is in attendance.

## **6. Misc. Item**

Today's meeting is the last for Darner as her term has expired. The Council thanked her for her service.

Wood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tsouvala seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons