

**Council on General Education Minutes**  
**February 17, 2026**  
**10:00-11:00 a.m., STV 140**

**Presiding:** Gregory Ferrence

**Present:** Mouna Bounouader, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Brian Rejack, Robbie Shorter, Christian Wesselink, and Sally Xie

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Discussion Item:**

**1. BS-SMT Courses**

**ANT 102 Human Origins: An Introduction to Biological Anthropology & Archaeology (existing ANT course)**

- Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
- Proposed for BS-SMT graduation requirement

Ferrence reminded members that to qualify for GE27, courses should not have a prerequisite. However, per BS-SMT designation guidelines, course must have a prerequisite. If this is correct, then ANT 102 will not be able to be counted toward both designations. Ferrence added that the issue is complex as there are already a number of courses that are approved for the BS-SMT designation but have removed their prerequisites. The Council will need to determine how it wishes to address and clean up the issue.

Hurd researched the issue prior to the meeting and found that of the current 49 BS-SMT courses, 13 no longer have pre-requisites. She went on to explain the official Academic Senate policy does not require an additional prerequisite course for the BS-SMT designation but that the Catalog, which is procedural, does. Hurd met with all the science department chairs earlier in the week and most did not know about the requirement. The chairs did not feel that the BS-SMT designation required an additional prerequisite course.

Ferrence asked if the Council could request the language be removed from the catalog as it was procedural and not an actual policy. Rejack asked what the difference was between changing policy vs procedure and how the additional prerequisite requirement was added. Hurd responded policies were under the purview of the Academic Senate so any changes to policy had to be reviewed and approved by that body. Hurd did not know how or when the procedure had been changed in the catalog to make it differ from the policy but assumed it had been that way for years and the Council was just now being made aware of the disconnect with the changes brought up by Coursedog and GE27.

Ferrence noted the majority of the science courses are within the College of Arts and Sciences and the prerequisite courses would most likely have been taken anyway as part of those programs. He thought the requirement may have been used for those students not within science majors as a way to ensure an additional course was taken. Rejack asked if the language were removed from the catalog, how the Council would be able to evaluate courses for the BS-SMT designation as then any course that counts for the SMT General Education requirement could then technically meet the BS-SMT designation requirement as well.

Bounouader asked what the process would be for changing the catalog. Hurd responded that an editorial change would need to be submitted to update the catalog. She would then let chairs know of

the change. She added if the Council decides to keep the prerequisite, the chairs of those courses that no longer have prerequisites would need to be notified as well as the BS-SMT designation would need to be removed. Rejack suggested an alternative may be to remove the prerequisite but to add language like “students taking x course often or typically take x course prior” as a way to keep the spirit of the requirement.

The Council will continue discussion and take action on this matter at the next meeting.

## **Action Items**

### **2. Approval of January 20, 2026 Minutes**

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as presented. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved as presented.

### **3. Approval of February 3, 2026 Minutes**

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as presented. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved as presented.

### **4. WGSS Minor Revision (revision to existing minor)**

The revision was proposed by Dr. Jacklyn Weier, Assistant Director, WGSS Program.

The proposal was tabled from the previous meeting due to time constraints. Ferrence reminded members the Council serves as the home department for WGSS which is why the proposal is before the Council. At the last meeting, Council members discussed whether the proposed changes to the required and elective courses lists were actually more restrictive or if it created the flexibility WGSS wanted. In addition, the Department of History had submitted a letter opposing the revision.

Hurd contacted Dr. Jason Whitesel, WGSS Interim Director, for additional information regarding the changes to the required and elective course lists. Whitesel told Hurd he had been in contact with all impacted departments and many of the changes were made because the departments were not able to guarantee they could consistently offer the courses on a regular basis. Whitesel had mapped out the seats that would be needed given the proposed changes and found there would be plenty of seats available.

Rejack made a motion to approve the WGSS minor revision. Seconded by Wesselink.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

### **5. HON 250 Honors Study Abroad in Europe (new HON course)**

- Proposed for GE14 – LH designation
- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

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

Ferrence noted the course was proposed for both GE14 and GE27 designations and thought the proposals looked good. Clemmons added the course was previously approved as IDS 121 for the GE14 LH requirement and that the course was being changed from IDS 121 to HON 250 as part of the move to GE27. Rejack asked about the five writing assignments that are required for a course to count toward

the LH designation. Clemmons responded that as part of the class, students complete three large papers as well as daily notes and then pre-assignments so the course meets the threshold. Rejack asked how the course would translate to GE27. Hurd responded there was a writing designation in GE27 that the course could have been proposed for. She felt many of the current LH courses would most likely be proposed for the AWI designation in GE27. Clemmons agreed but said that it was proposed for the ELCE designation instead as it was a better fit for that designation, especially with the study abroad component. Ferrence liked the ELCE choice.

Murphy made a motion to approve HON 250 for both the GE14 LH designation and the GE27 ELCE designation. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

#### **6. IDS 115 Mathematical Foundations in Learning (new IDS course)**

The course was proposed by Kate Roberge, Assistant Director of Curriculum Services, University College.

Ferrence informed Council members the proposal was for a new, 2-hour IDS course that would support students taking MAT 119. Students would take the courses concurrently to receive additional support/practice for MAT 119. Hurd added that it was a similar support structure currently being used by IDS 114 and MAT 113 and is coming about due to the changes in the ALEKS math placement exam. Ferrence asked why this type of model was not utilized more often. Hurd responded that it was cost prohibitive as instructors were paid for attending both sections and that students did not like to be assessed the expense for the additional course hours.

Rejack made a motion to approve IDS 115 as a new course. Seconded by Bounouader.

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

#### **7. MAT 204 Geometric Reasoning for Middle School Teachers (new MAT course)**

- Proposed for GE14 – QR designation

The course was proposed by Dr. Benton Duncan, Chair, Department of Mathematics.

Ferrence noted the course was a new course and was proposed for GE14 only. Clemmons asked why it was not being proposed for GE27 as well. Hurd responded she had asked Duncan the same thing and that he responded the department had not decided its strategy yet for GE27 course proposals. Ferrence noted the State of Illinois had recently changed the hours requirement from 24 hours to 18 for middle school teachers and this proposal was most likely part of a restructuring effort to better align courses. He thought it was likely the Council would see an update in the future for the course to be considered for GE27 as well.

Rejack noted the course had a prerequisite which is problematic for General Education courses. Hurd responded that while not ideal, we currently allow GE14 courses to have prerequisites, though it would need to be flagged if it is decided to propose for a GE27 designation. Xie added the course seemed to be specific to the major and questioned if it would be open/desirable to others outside of the major. Hurd responded that the course could not be major blocked. Shorter added that from a student's perspective, non-majors may be more likely to take non-Math courses to fulfill the requirement.

Ferrence thought if the intent were to request a GE27 designation in the future, this approach will not work. Hurd responded she would be meeting with Duncan later in the week and could discuss the Council's concerns with him for additional clarification.

Shorter made a motion to table the proposal for additional information. Seconded by Rejack.

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

#### **8. MAT 132 Math Inquiry and Literacy (new MAT course)**

- Proposed for GE14 – MAT designation

The course was proposed by Dr. Benton Duncan, Chair, Department of Mathematics.

Ferrence noted this proposal was similar to the one just discussed and tabled. He added it was a new course that had MAT 102 or placement exam as a prerequisite which was a more allowable prerequisite and felt the proposal was a little more straightforward. Rejack questioned based on the prerequisite wording if the course was not for credit for middle level teacher majors or math majors as the wording was confusing. Hurd agreed that the wording needed to be more specific and said she could discuss it with Duncan when she meets with him later in the week.

Clemmons made a motion to table the proposal for additional information. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

#### **9. CJS 308 Race, Ethnicity & Criminal Justice (existing course)**

- Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation

The course was proposed by Jazmyn Niembazaa, Program Student Advisor, Department of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Clemmons wondered if a 300-level course should be considered for General Education and with another 300-level course on the agenda, this would set a precedent. Ferrence noted that the University's course numbering system was unique. Krcmarik responded that at other institutions, all levels of course numbers could count toward general education. Ferrence added that the course should be open to all and wondered about the likelihood of non-CJS majors taking the course. Hurd responded it would depend on how well the department runs the class. If students do well in it, advisors will be more likely to suggest it to their students. She added that it was likely the Council will see more 300-level proposals, especially for those courses seeking the ELCE designation, as students will be more likely to take those courses later in their career.

Clemmons wondered about the philosophical implications of having 300-level courses count toward general education. Hurd noted IDS majors in particular need 300-level courses that are not major-blocked and consistently run into issues with finding them. This would be a way to assist with that issue. Wesselink added that from a student's perspective, it would be nice to have the ability to take some general education courses later and that students are told to spread them out if possible.

Shorter made a motion to table the proposal due to time constraints. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

10. [PHY 108 College Physics I \(existing course\)](#)
  - Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
11. [ELE 170 Sensors and the Smart Society \(new course proposal\)](#)
  - Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
12. [ELE 180 Introduction to AI & Applications \(new course proposal\)](#)
  - Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
13. [MUS 239A26 Ensemble: Experimental Music \(new course proposal\)](#)
  - Proposed for GE14 – FA designation
  - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
14. [PHY 110 Physics for Science and Engineering I \(existing course\)](#)
  - Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
15. [GEO 206 Oceans, Climate, & the Environment \(new course proposal\)](#)
  - Proposed for GE14 – QR designation
  - Proposed for BS-SMT graduation requirement
  - Proposed for GE27 – QL designation
16. [SOC 330 Society and Environment \(existing course\)](#)
  - Proposed for GE27-AWI designation

Action Items 10-16 were tabled due to time constraints.

**Information Items:**

**17. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 1/30/26-2/12/26**  
<https://gened.illinoisstate.edu/gened28/implementation-plan/>

- ENG 165 Introduction to African-American Literature & Culture – Exploring the Human Condition designation
- ENG 170 Introduction to Children’s Literature – Exploring the Human Condition designation
- GEO 102 Planet Earth – Scientific Literacy designation
- MUS 181A01 Marching Band – Creative Arts designation
- MUS 275 World Arts: Music – Creative Arts designation
- MUS 281A01 Marching Band – Creative Arts designation
- POL 106 United States Government and Civic Practices – Individuals and Society designation
- POL 138 Quantitative Reasoning in Political Science – Quantitative Literacy designation

Rejack made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Clemmons.

Meeting adjourned: 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons