

Council on General Education Minutes

March 31, 2026

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Malinda Aiello, Brian Aitken, Mouna Bounouader, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Sally Xie, and Christian Wesselink

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

Action Items:

1. CJS 308 Race, Ethnicity & Criminal Justice (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation**

The proposal was submitted by Jazmyn Niembazaa, Program Student Advisor, Department of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Ferrence reminded Council members that the proposal had been discussed at the previous meeting. The Council had sent the proposal back for revision and had asked for the course description to be updated to include ELCE designation language. Niembazaa made the requested changes and re-submitted the proposal for review. Rivadeneyra noted the changes had been made to the course description as requested but not to the anchor syllabus.

Aitken made a motion to approve CJS 308 for the ELCE designation pending the inclusion of the updated course description language and ELCE learning objectives being added to the anchor syllabus. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

Hurd will contact Niembazaa to request the edits.

2. MUS 239A26 Ensemble: Experimental Music (new course proposal)

- **Proposed for GE14 – FA designation**
- **Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Alex Stephenson, Assistant Professor, School of Music.

This proposal was administratively tabled due to missing information that had requested.

3. PHY 108 College Physics I (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. David Marx, Associate Professor, Department of Physics

Ferrence noted the only difference between this course and PHY 110 was that PHY 110 required calculus and PHY 108 required algebra. He felt there was tension for the course being in the STEM designation as did it truly have the required two disciplines to be considered STEM or was it being proposed for STEM

just because math was used in the course. Wesselink asked if focus of the course was more physics based or if it included teaching the math specifically needed for physics. Ferrence responded that his opinion was that students should probably have math knowledge prior to enrolling. He added it was a highly applied math and would typically be more word-like problems that students would need to translate into physics applications. Hurd asked wasn't that the point of STEM.

Rivadenevra recalled the STEM requirement of incorporating two different STEM disciplines came from the suggestion of the Academic Senate. Based on their suggestion, the Council made the decision to require the two disciplines representation. She added several of the science disciplines were concerned they would be excluded from General Education, but they now had the choice of proposing courses for either the STEM or SL designation. Rivadenevra said she was alright with the course as a STEM course. Krcmarik and Murphy both agreed.

Council members noted the learning objectives for the SL and STEM designations were identical and wondered, aside from the two different discipline requirement for STEM courses, what the difference was between the two designations. Hurd thought the thinking was that the survey-type courses would go to SL designation while the higher level, more in-depth courses would go toward the STEM designation. Rejack asked if this was the intro course to Physics. Hurd responded that PHY 102 was the intro course and had just been approved for the SL designation.

Rivadenevra asked if Physics was sure they wanted the STEM designation as students would then need to take another course to count for the SL designation. Aitken responded Physics majors take PHY 110 instead of PHY 108. He added that there could potentially be issues with other students having to take an additional course but as the University is just in the beginning stages of proposing courses for the new General Education designations, it is hard to speculate on the department's overall strategy. Aiello added when reviewing courses for IAI designations, the panel makes their decision based on if the course aligns with the published descriptors for that category. If it does, then the course qualifies for that designation.

Aitken noted he had two additional concerns for the course outside of the requested designation. The first was the number of hours required. He pointed out that if PHY 108 and PHY 110 were essentially the same course minus the calculus requirement, why was PHY 108 five credit hours while PHY 110 is four credit hours. He noted PHY 108 and 109 are common requirements for medical schools so maybe that was the reasoning behind the hours difference. Clemmons reviewed the requirements on the AMA applications and did not see that there was a five-hour Physics course requirement. Aitken also raised the question regarding removing the P/NP restriction language. Hurd responded that staff in the Registrar's Office will remove all mentions of the P/NP restriction automatically in the 2027-2028 catalog.

Rivadenevra made a motion to send PHY 108 back for revision to request additional information including an alignment of STEM learning objectives. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

4. PHY 110 Physics for Science and Engineering I (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. David Marx, Associate Professor, Department of Physics. Ferrance assumed the discussion regarding this proposal would be similar to the previous proposal's discussion. However, he noted that as this course requires a background in Calculus I, the required pre-requisite made sense. Wesselink noted Calculus I could be taken concurrently with PHY 110 so the course would meet the spirit of General Education by not having a prerequisite. Aitken responded that per the new General Education guidelines, prerequisites were to be removed from all General Education courses unless there was an absolute need for one based on course content. Aiello informed Council members if the course maintained the math prerequisite, it would lose its IAI designation when it is next reviewed.

As with the previous proposal, the issue was raised the student outcomes for both the SL and STEM designations are the same. Rivadeneyra asked if a rationale explaining why a department/school felt a course fit in one category over another should be required. This requirement, while a part of the previous curriculum system, is no longer a requirement in Coursedog. Aitken asked who wrote the learning objectives for both designations. Rivadeneyra responded faculty experts from CeMaST wrote them along with science faculty on the General Education Taskforce.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to send PHY 110 back for revision to request additional information including an alignment of STEM learning objectives. Seconded by Aitken.

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

5. 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**

6. SOC 330 Society and Environment (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27-AWI designation**

7. CJS 220 Death & Justice (new course proposal)

- **Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation**

8. ANT 210 Utopias and Dystopias: Indigenous Latin America (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE14-SS designation**
- **Proposed for GE27-IS designation**

9. LAL 210 Utopias and Dystopias: Indigenous Latin America (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE14-SS designation**
- **Proposed for GE27-IS designation**

10. POL 151 Introduction to International Relations (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27-IS designation**

11. CTK 120 History of Games

- Proposed for GE14-FA designation
- Proposed for GE27-CA designation

12. ELE 160 Principles of Hardware Cybersecurity and Digital Trust (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE27-STEM designation

13. MUS 153 Black Music I (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

14. MUS 154 Black Music II (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

15. MUS 155 The Orchestra Explored: From Haydn to Hollywood (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE14 – FA designation
- Proposed for GE27 – CA designation

16. TEC 150 Graphic Communications Technology (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – CA designation

17. HSC 270 Global Contexts (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

18. CTK 235 Critical Making with AI (new course proposal)

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

Action Items 5-18 were tabled due to time constraints.

Information Items:

19. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 3/13/26 – 3/26/26

<https://gened.illinoisstate.edu/gened28/implementation-plan/>

- AGR 203 Agriculture and the Environment – approved for STEM designation
- BSC 145 Human Biology – approved for STEM designation
- BSC 170 Genetics and Society – approved for STEM designation
- BSC 196 Biological Diversity – approved for Scientific Literacy designation
- BSC 197 Molecular and Cellular Basis of Life – approved for Scientific Literacy designation
- ECO 103 Individual and Social Choice – approved for Individuals & Society designation
- HIS 101 Europe and the World I – approved for Exploring the Human Condition designation
- HIS 102 Europe and the World II – approved for Exploring the Human Condition designation
- HIS 135 History of the United States to 1865 – approved for Individuals & Society designation

- HIS 136 History of the United States from 1865 – approved for Individuals & Society designation

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons