

## Council on General Education Minutes

January 20, 2026

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

**Presiding:** Gregory Ferrence & Amy Hurd

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

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### Action Items

#### 1. Approval of November 11, 2025 Minutes

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

#### 2. LAN 100 Myths and Realities of Language Learning in Multilingual Societies (new LAN course)

- Proposed GE14 – Social Sciences designation
- Proposed GE27 – Individuals and Society designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Alejandro Enriquez, Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Rivadeneyra informed Council members the department was in the process of restructuring the major. Instead of offering individual majors in French, German, and Spanish, the department would offer a World Languages major with sequences in each language. LAN 100 would be an anchor course for the major and taught in English to help build community. Rivadeneyra added the course focused more on linguistics and is the first time the department has sought a SS designation.

Hurd added the course has also been proposed for the IDEAS designation. The question was raised if the workflow for the proposal was operating correctly but after review, it was determined to be operating correctly. Rejack asked if the course was being proposed for both GE14 and GE27 categories. Hurd confirmed it was.

Rejack felt the course was very much in the realm of social sciences given the linguistics focus and was appropriate for the GE14 SS designation. Aitken felt the course also aligned with the GE27 IS designation and asked if the course would be required for majors or open to all students. Rivadeneyra responded the course would be required for all LAN majors with the possible exception of the Spanish sequence. She added the department was still working on the Spanish sequence requirements.

Clemmons agreed the course made sense for the GE27 IS designation. Rivadeneyra also agreed but wondered if it was alright that the GE14 learning objectives were not on the anchor syllabus. Council members discussed and agreed it was not an issue.

Rejack made a motion to approve LAN 100 for the GE14 SS and GE27 IS designations. Seconded by Krcmarik.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

### **3. LAN 102 Exploring the Human Story through World Narratives and Cultures (new LAN course)**

- **Proposed GE14 – Languages in the Humanities designation**
- **Proposed GE27 – Exploring the Human Condition designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Alejandro Enriquez, Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Hurd noted the proposal was a request for both GE14 and GE27 designations for a new LAN course. She wondered why the department had not submitted the course as a second writing course in GE27. Aitken added the course would need a writing component if it was to be considered for the LH designation. Rivadeneyra responded that it had been suggested to the department, but the faculty felt it was a better fit for the EHC designation.

Rejack thought the course was similar to the currently offered 125 Literary Narrative course that is cross listed between the Departments of English and Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LAN). However, he felt this course seemed broader and may eventually replace the 125 courses. Rivadeneyra thought it possible that LAN would choose to inactivate their offering of 125. Hurd confirmed the chairs of both departments were currently having discussions as to the future of the course.

Aitken was concerned if the minimum writing assignment threshold had been met to qualify for the GE14 LH designation but both he and Clemmons felt the course seemed to fit the EHC designation for GE27. Hurd said she could contact the LAN chair for clarification on the number of writing assignments required as it was not clear from the anchor syllabus.

Aitken made a motion to approve LAN 102 for the GE14 LH designation pending confirmation from the department on the number of writing assignments required by the course was at least five. Seconded by Murphy.

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

Hurd will contact Dr. Lynd for more information.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve LAN 102 for the GE27 EHC designation. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

### **4. THE 170 Introduction to Film Art (existing THE course)**

- **Proposed GE14 – Fine Arts designation**
- **Proposed GE27 – Creative Arts designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Brendan Leahy, Assistant Professor, School of Theatre, Dance, and Film.

Hurd noted the course has not officially held a GE14 designation but has long been substituted in to fulfill the FA requirement as the category has been short on seats. Rivadeneyra asked if the course had an IAI designation. Aiello confirmed it did.

Krcmarik motioned to approve THE 170 for both the GE14 FA and GE27 CA designations. Seconded by Rejack.

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

**5. IDS 119 The Civically Engaged Scientist (existing IDS course)**

- **Proposed GE27 – Experiential Learning & Civic Engagement designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Rebekka Darner, Interim Associate Dean, Mennonite College of Nursing.

Rejack noted the anchor syllabus had a typo in it and referred to the course as IDS 199. Hurd will get the error corrected. Aitken added the syllabus was in reference to being offered as a six-week summer session course and asked if it would only be offered in the summer. Hurd confirmed that was the plan for right now.

Rivadeneyra motioned to approve IDS 119 for the GE27 ELCE designation. Seconded by Rejack.

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

**6. WGSS 299 Independent Honor Study in WGS (new WGSS course)**

The course was proposed by Dr. Jacklyn Weier, Assistant Director, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Ferrence noted the course number was the common number used on campus for research classes and reminded Council members that as WGSS does not have a home department, the Council is now serving as the department reviewer for their courses. He thought the syllabus provided was very general but due to the nature of the course, was acceptable as it did provide an overview of course expectations.

Clemmons mentioned that honors study courses typically have a very specific assignment and have to submit a paper and noted this was not listed as a course requirement. Rivadeneyra responded due to the nature of the discipline; it was possible that WGSS may not have wanted one. Rejack added that he thought based on the guidelines provided, he didn't believe they prevented the inclusion of a project if one was determined to be needed.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve WGSS 299 as a new course. Seconded by Rejack.

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

**7. CTK 275 Exploring Digital Creativity: Past, Present, and Future (existing CTK course)**

- Proposed GE14 – Fine Arts designation
- Proposed GE27 – Creative Arts designation

**8. IDS 102 Basic Algebra (existing course changing to IDS)**

**9. IDS 102A01 Basic Algebra: Developmental Numerical Reasoning (existing course changing to IDS)**

**10. IDS 104 Intermediate Algebra (existing course changing to IDS)**

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

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

**12. IDS 220 Science & Mathematics Career Preparation Seminar (new IDS course)**

Action items 7-12 were tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints.

**Discussion Items:**

**13. Expedited Course Approval Process**

Hurd noted that several Council members had already been asked to review expedited GE27 course proposals. Simmons will send members proposals to review. Hurd added that she and Simmons were screening proposals ahead of time and sending back those that needed revisions.

**Information Items:**

**14. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 11/12/2025-1/15/2026:**

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

- ANT 185 Cultures of the World: An Introduction to Cultural & Linguistic Anthropology – Individuals and Society designation
- ANT 201 Experimental Archaeology – Experiential Learning and Civic Engagement designation
- CHE 102 Chemistry and Society – Scientific Literacy designation
- CHE 110 Fundamentals of Chemistry – Scientific Literacy designation
- CHE 112 Fundamentals of Chemistry Lab – Scientific Literacy designation
- CHE 140 General Chemistry I – Scientific Literacy designation
- CJS 101 Introduction to Criminal Justice Science – Individuals and Society designation
- CJS 102 Individuals, Society, and Justice – Individuals and Society designation
- CJS 105 Violence in America – Individuals and Society designation
- ENG 110 Introduction to English Literary History – Exploring the Human Condition designation
- FCS 112 American Family: Change & Diversity – Individuals and Society designation
- FCS 224 Enduring Issues for Couples and Families – Individuals and Society designation
- GEO 103 Thirsty Society: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Water – Scientific Literacy designation
- HSC 156 Environmental Health 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Meeting Global Change - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics designation
- HSC 170 Living on the Edge: The Art of Everyday Risk-Taking – Individuals and Society designation
- HSC 204 Health Data Analysis and Statistics – Quantitative Literacy designation
- HSC 206 Global Health - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics designation
- HSC 209 Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics designation
- MUS 152 Experiencing Music – Creative Arts designation
- PHI 101 Basic Issues in Philosophy – Exploring the Human Condition designation
- PHI 214 Introduction to the Philosophy of Race – Individuals and Society designation
- PHI 224 Meaning and Religious Belief – Exploring the Human Condition designation
- PHI 238 Rights and Wrongs – Exploring the Human Condition designation

- PHI 251 Visions of the Self: A Study of Minds and Persons – Exploring the Human Condition designation
- POL 103 Thirsty Society: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Water – Scientific Literacy designation
- PSY 110 Fundamentals of Psychology – Individuals and Society designation
- PSY 138 Reasoning in Psychology Using Statistics – Quantitative Literacy designation
- PSY 223 Social Psychology – Individuals and Society designation
- SOC 103 Thirsty Society: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Water – Scientific Literacy designation
- SOC 106 Introduction to Sociology – Individuals and Society designation
- SOC 112 American Family: Change & Diversity – Individuals and Society designation
- SOC 223 Social Psychology – Individuals and Society designation
- TEC 170 Energy for a Sustainable Future - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics designation
- TEC 275 Technology and Quality of Life - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics designation

Rejack made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned: 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons