

**Council on General Education Minutes**  
**January 26, 2021**  
**10-11:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting**

**Presiding:** Chris Worland

**Present:** Brian Aitken, Mary Elaine Califf, Amy Hurd (late), Stella Liao, Tony Marinello, Sally Parry, Carla Pohl, Liz Sattler, Georgia Tsouvala, Gary Weilbacher, Xing Wang, Tina Williams, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

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

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

**Action Items:**

**1. Approval of November 17, 2020 Minutes**

Worland asked if there were any corrections to the November 17, 2020 minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

**2. SOC 195 Sociology of Popular Culture (existing course proposed for ICL designation)**

The course was proposed by Ryan Gray, Director of Student Services, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Worland thought the lengthy justification provided by the faculty member working on the course was very well done. Parry agreed the explanation was fabulous but was concerned of the course's fit in the ICL category as she was unsure of the connection. She supposed one could contend that popular culture exists in every country, but she was unsure if the course would be taught in that and felt she would need to be convinced of the appropriateness of the request.

Worland noted that he re-read the ICL category's definition as outlined on the General Education's website. He felt on the fact of it, ICL's definition lends itself more about potential governance and political systems but felt it did open up to natural sciences, legal and business. However, he felt the most obvious category designation for this course would be Social Science (SS). Parry thought part of the appeal of requesting the ICL category designation was the opportunity to troll for students and was concerned regarding blurring categories primarily to recruit students as opposed to the course truly belonging in the category.

Tsouvala asked Parry for further explanation. Parry responded that departments use General Education designations primarily as a way to recruit students versus selecting a designation(s) that most naturally align with the course(es). She thought the SS designation would work in this case but that the ICL designation was a harder case to fit in. Califf asked if the Council wanted courses to be shoe-horned into categories or to have courses that it was confident are a match for the category. Parry thought it should be the latter to which Califf also agreed.

Wood asked what category would be most appropriate for the course. Parry thought the SS category would be the best fit. Worland wondered if it could potentially fit in the Humanities (H) category as well

as it looked at popular culture as a social structure. Parry thought there may be probable push back from Humanities folks as it was a blurring of fields/disciplines. Worland pointed out the way the current designation descriptions are written, one could argue any course could fit. He added as part of the General Education Task Force's formal assessment, an effort should be made to make these descriptions clearer going forward.

A motion was made by Parry to reject the course for the ICL designation. Pohl seconded.

12 in favor, none opposed, one abstained.

The motion passed.

Worland will contact the department with the Council's concerns and suggest they re-submit the course proposal for the SS designation.

### **3. Global Studies Minor (new minor proposal)**

The program revision was proposed by Dr. Michaelene Cox, Associate Professor, Department of Politics and Government.

Hurd noted the proposal had come before the Council last year but did not go anywhere after the Council raised concerns regarding the minor's direction. Hurd and Cox had a long conversation following the Council's review to discuss where Cox wanted to go with the minor. It was decided to break the attachment to the old program. Cox re-wrote the proposal and Hurd agreed to take a revised proposal to chairs for support/approval. The revised proposal breaks the minor's requirements into three different categories and will be more of a current events/topic minor.

Parry noted she liked the revised proposal and thought the revised minor was much better than what was presented earlier to the Council. Hurd agreed and noted all the chairs supported the suggested course substitutions. Williams had not seen the previous version but liked the variety of available choices and felt there was something for everyone who would be interested in the minor.

Worland asked about the procedure if the Council were to approve the minor and if that would mean it would be active for fall 2021. Hurd explained if the Council voted to approve it, it would then need to go to the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) for review. However, it would not need to go before IBHE as it is a minor. As the deadline had already passed for any new program to make the 2021-2022 Catalog, Hurd thought the soonest it could be available was in the 2022-2023 Catalog. Parry asked if a Financial Implications Form had been submitted as well. Hurd confirmed it had already been submitted. Marinello wondered if World Arts could be added as a course option in the minor's third category of requirements. Hurd responded ART courses currently weren't proposed but could be added simply enough going forward as an editorial change request.

A motion was made by Parry to approve Global Studies as a new minor. Tsouvala seconded.

13 in favor, none opposed, one abstained.

The motion passed.

- 4. Liberal Studies Sequence (new program proposal)**
- 5. Individualized Sequence (revise program proposal)**
- 6. University Studies Major (delete program proposal)**
- 7. Multidisciplinary Studies Sequence (delete sequence proposal)**

The Council chose to review and discuss items four-seven together as they are all related. All proposals were submitted by Hurd.

Hurd reminded Council members the University Studies and IDS majors are both overseen by University College and that she serves as the chair and dean of both programs. The University Studies major requires 60 hours and a 2.0 gpa. It is made up of three sequences and that each have different requirements. The IDS major is made up of three sequences. The Individualized Sequence is for those high-achieving students who wish to “build their own major.” Hurd added the Human and Educational Services (HES) Sequence is primarily used for those students in the Department of Special Education (SED) or the School of Teaching and Learning (TCH) who no longer wish to teach but still want to graduate from Illinois State.

Hurd noted there was a fair amount of confusion and overlap between the majors and the IDS major sequences which was also pointed out in the major’s program review two years ago. Staff has been looking at both programs to determine if both majors are still needed. Regarding the IDS major, it was determined that the Individualized Sequence should be kept with changes to its current requirements. It was also suggested to keep the HES Sequence while replacing the Multidisciplinary Sequence with a Liberal Studies Sequence.

It was suggested that the University Studies major be deleted. Hurd added she did not care for the University Studies major as it had the stigma that students completing this major couldn’t “make it” in any other major which is not true. Parry added it was also confusing as University Studies is the name of the former General Education program and felt this would help simplify things.

Williams asked if admittance into the Individualized Sequence had a gpa requirement. Hurd confirmed students must have a 3.0 gpa for the sequence. Williams asked about students with a lower gpa. Hurd explained the rest of the sequences had a 2.0 gpa requirement and that those students would most likely go into the Liberal Studies Sequence.

Wood asked for an explanation regarding the difference between the current Multidisciplinary Sequence and the proposed Liberal Studies Sequence. Aitken responded that the current Multidisciplinary Sequence required 30 hours with the new proposal requiring 36 hours. Students would be able to take the 36 hours in one department or design the sequence around a theme. They could also take 18 hours in two different disciplines or could decide to pursue a minor. Wood then asked for an explanation regarding the difference between the Liberal Studies and Individualized Sequences. Aitken noted students within the Individualized Sequence take a proactive approach to their study plan as the University may not currently offer such a program, such as Circus Studies. The rest of the sequences are more reactive in nature and for those students who are in good standing but do not seem to have a clear path to graduation.

Califf asked if the Registrar’s Office had been consulted prior to submitting the proposals to verify there would be no system issues with the proposed changes. Aitken noted the plans are currently tailored to each student, so the Registrar’s Office already inputs these plans of study according to the specific

student requirements. Parry added that it was similar to a proactive hand audit. Hurd mentioned this was why there are no four-year plans of student for the major/sequences as they had to be done by individual. However, she confirmed that she had consulted with Catalog staff within the Registrar's Office and they verified the proposed changes would not cause system issues on their end of things.

A motion was made by Aitken to approve the following:

- accept the Liberal Studies Sequence
- revise the Individualized Sequence
- delete the University Studies Major
- delete the Multidisciplinary Studies Sequence

Califf seconded the motion.

14 in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

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

#### **8. CGE Charge Review Update**

Hurd notified Council members the Rules Committee had voted 7-1 in favor of keeping the changes the Council had proposed. The charge was then sent to the Academic Senate Executive Committee for review. The dissenting voter submitted reasoning to the Executive Committee as to why she felt the Rules Committee was incorrect in its decision. Hurd will follow-up with the Provost to find out what decision was made and will update the Council at the next meeting.

#### **9. General Education Program Review**

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.

Council members did not feel program review as it currently stands was neither an appropriate not feasible assessment for the General Education program. Hurd will meet next week with Martha Horst to discuss.

#### **10. Misc. Item**

Simmons notified the Council she had received student representative Katie Fisher's resignation from the Council due to scheduling conflicts. Williams added the same was true for student representative Gabby Thompson.

Parry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sattler seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons