

Council on General Education Minutes
January 28, 2020
10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140

Presiding: Amy Hurd

Present: Brian Aitken, Katie Fisher, Amy Hurd, Stella Liao, Lance Lippert, Sally Parry, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Georgia Tsouvala, Gary Weilbacher, and Chris Worland

Guests:

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative
Dr. Michaelene Cox, Associate Professor, Politics and Government

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

Action Items:

1. Approval of January 14, 2020 Minutes

The question was called. Parry made a motion to accept the January 14, 2020 minutes. Rivadeneyra seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

2. International Studies Minor (program revision)

At the request of the Council, Dr. Michaelene Cox attended the meeting to address the Council's questions/concerns regarding the proposed program revision.

Parry asked Cox why she was taking over the program revision process. Cox explained that she had not been aware the minor was in peril until receiving an email from Dr. Susan Kalter. Dr. Kalter emailed faculty who taught in the minor to inquire if anyone was aware of the proposal to eliminate the minor. Cox met with Kalter and other interested in revising the program in order to consider keeping it active. Cox met with interested faculty, worked on the program revision proposal over the summer, and submitted the proposal in the fall. Cox added the proposed minor included more professional development than the previous version.

Tsouvala thanked Cox for providing the Council with a breakdown of the proposed curriculum. She questioned why regional topics were removed. She wondered how the minor fit in the bigger global/international scheme as it did not include coursework involving current major global powers such as China, India, and Russia.

Cox responded there had been lively conversations at all levels regarding the international vs. global matter and noted the terms were often used interchangeably. International is much smaller in scope of focus and includes multi-national activity between countries such as international trade deficit. Global, however, is more universally wider in scope and involves all encompassing matters across national boundaries such as in the case of global pandemics.

One of the reasons the regional topics were removed was, as Program Director Shari Zeck pointed out, they were redundant. The University offers more majors and minors that focus exclusively on regional areas. With the limited amount of credit hours a minor has to work with, this made for a more fragmented view rather than a global perspective.

Cox added that faculty had cross-checked the University Catalog for topics that were already covered in other programs. Courses were then added to the proposal that had a more global focus to provide a more birds-eye view of the issue such as courses in world history and global health. Some of the original minor's coursework remained in the proposal as they looked at area studies on a comparative basis such as *Women's Literature in Global Context*.

Tsouvala asked if the name of the minor should be changed from International Studies to Global Studies to reflect the distinction in terminology. She also noted that she would like to see more options including China and India as both countries represent half of the world's population and are major powers in the global sphere.

Cox agreed the minor's name should be changed to Global Studies and will edit the proposal. She added the proposed minor is similar to other comparative programs. National forces and international organizations will better be covered by elective courses. The proposed minor would require two to three electives where students could focus on specific areas of focus.

Liao noted the Department of Economics offers a specific course covering trade with China. Cox added it was a 300-level course and the proposed minor also a course in current economic issues. She believed the program will not ignore specific populations but instead would look beyond specific countries. Courses dropped from the proposal, such as *Russian History*, will be covered elsewhere.

Tsouvala noted from her perspective as a historian, the course selection, including courses covering World Wars I and II, seemed to have a European and North American perspective. She was concerned how we could discuss American foreign relations without including coursework from places such as China. Cox responded the courses covering both World Wars were included as both conflicts had relevance in larger picture. She noted the catalog did not describe them as Eurocentric. When probed, the conflicts themselves had repercussions throughout the world although she noted course content and focus could vary by instructor as well as the selection of readings used.

Cox told the Council revising the program was a difficult place to be in as the desire was to preserve the original intent/structure of the existing program but realizing there had to be give and take so more elective options were available to students. Cox wanted to add additional value to the minor to include topics not immediately seen as global issues as opposed to only focusing on apparent/direct global matters.

Other Council members expressed concerns regarding the seemingly Eurocentric slant to the curriculum and suggested syllabi should be collected for each course proposed for the minor. Tsouvala suggested creating new courses for the minor. Hurd noted the Council was not in the position to create new courses for the minor. Tsouvala then felt the program needed to be changed to include more history classes, as well as, more elective course options in regional studies.

Cox will review the proposed course list and will meet with Tsouvala for additional discussion. She will also take the Council's concerns back to other faculty members who worked on the proposal to get their thoughts. Cox will send a summary of her proposed changes to Hurd and Ian Gawron so that the proposal can be revised.

This item was tabled until receipt of additional information from Cox.

3. IDS 194 Career for Health Professionals (course revision)

This item was tabled due to time constraints.

4. IDS 298A02 PP: Mentorship in Healthcare Professions (course revision)

This item was tabled due to time constraints.

Information/Discussion Item:

5. NCCU Summer Program

Hurd informed Council members that the National Chengchi University International Summer School (NCCU), located in Taiwan, was interested in participating in a summer program with Illinois State. Hurd explained our students would be going to Taiwan to take courses. Transfer credit would be problematic as courses were worth one credit with the exception of a Chinese course.

Parry and Hurd worked on proposed course articulations. Hurd will send the information back to NCCU for their review.

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

Meeting adjourned: 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Soemer Simmons