

Council on General Education Minutes

February 3, 2026

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Brian Aitken, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Robbie Shorter, and Jing Wang

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Action Items

1. CTK Exploring Digital Creativity: Past, Present, and Future (existing CTK course)

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

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Kristin Carlson, Associate Professor, School of Creative Technologies.

Ferrence noted the course was being proposed for designations in both General Education programs. Rejack asked what the Council had decided previously based on past discussions regarding accepting 200-level courses being accepted as General Education courses. Ferrence responded in the instance of the last course that was reviewed, the concern the Council had was based more on the fact the course had a pre-requisite than the fact it was a 200-level course.

Aitken added that CTK does not offer any 100-level courses. Krcmarik told Council members the Graphic Design program starts at the 200-level with some of those courses being held for foundational courses. Rivadeneyra noted there were no prerequisites associated with the course but asked if the Council would accept 300-level courses for General Education then if there were no prerequisites. Aitken responded that the expectation amount first year student and parents is that they will do 100-level courses and that, if given the choice, most would pursue 100-level courses as they are perceived to be “easier.”

Ferrence thought that given the current numbering system utilized by the University, having the 200-level course count toward General Education was reasonable. He added the salient point to consider was if the course would be attractive and general enough to appeal to a large number of students while being open to all to enroll. Aitken responded CTK has had a history of major blocking sections of their courses and noted they, along with other departments on campus, would need to be held to the new reserve guidelines. Krcmarik added with the new budget model, this may not longer be an issue, at least with the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts.

Aitken made a motion to approve CTK 275 for the GE14 FA and GE 27 CA designations. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

2. IDS 102 Basic Algebra (existing course changing to IDS)

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

4. IDS 104 Intermediate Algebra (existing course changing to IDS)

The proposals were submitted by Dr. Keenan Wimbley, Program Director, University College. The Council chose to discuss action items 2-4 together.

Ferrence informed Council members the three courses were part of the Developmental Math program and did not count toward graduation. The courses are administered and taught by University College as opposed to the Math department. The proposals are to request a change from MAT to IDS to more accurately reflect the ownership of the course. Ferrence liked the idea of the change as he felt it sent a clear message the courses were not at the level of college-level math.

Hurd added the change was in response to the upcoming budget changes and how funding will flow. In addition, the changeover to IDS would simplify the curriculum and scheduling processes for the courses. Ferrence noted there a letter of concurrence from Math was not included as part of the proposals. Hurd responded the chair had been notified of the request and had no objections as the department did not want them. Aitken added that with the proposed restructure of math, these courses would mostly likely be phased out over the next several years.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve the change from MAT to IDS for all three courses. Seconded by Rejack.

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

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

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

The course was proposed by Natalie Schaad, Assistant to the Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Ferrence informed Council members the proposal was for an existing course and was for GE27 as well as a BS-SMT graduation requirement designation. Hurd added that the Council does not see a lot of BS-SMT requests. Rejack asked for a reminder as to what the requirement was. Aitken responded that students completing a BS degree are required to take an additional course in science, math, or technology that is in addition to the required General Education courses. The course itself can count for both a general education designation and the BS-SMT, but students cannot double dip the requirement.

Aitken noted that according to the University catalog, any course that has the BS-SMT designation must have specific course prereqs from the General Education program. The BS-SMT course was meant to be a second-level science course. Aitken added that several courses within the BS-SMT designation have removed their prereqs and that those courses have not had the designation removed.

Rivadeneyra pointed out that if this is the case, the current proposal would either have to choose to have the GE27 designation or the BS-SMT designation but could not have both. Ferrence believed the broader concern was if the Council needed to clean up the issue. Hurd suggested the Council table the proposal so she could review the policy and research how many courses would be impacted but agreed the issue needed cleaned up. Rejack asked what the procedure was if the policy needed changed. Hurd

responded the policy would need to be corrected first by the Council. It would then go to the Academic Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate for review and then to the Academic Senate floor.

Rejack made a motion to table ANT 102 for Hurd to do additional research. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

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

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

The course was proposed by Dr. Rebekka Darner, Interim Associate Dean, Mennonite College of Nursing.

Ferrence informed Council members the proposal was not for a general education course. The course is a new IDS course, and the Council serves as the oversight for all IDS courses. Council members thought the course looked highly interesting and useful. Rivadeneyra noted the anchor syllabus provided did not follow the syllabus template and wondered if it needed to be. Ferrence agreed the syllabus should follow the anchor syllabus template.

Aitken questioned the minimum hours limit prereq on the course as the Council had had concerns last year with course proposals from the Department of Philosophy that had the same prereq. Clemmons responded the issue the Council had was because both Philosophy courses were proposed for General Education designations, but this one did not.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve IDS 220 as a new course pending the syllabus being updated to the anchor syllabus template format. Seconded by Rejack.

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

Hurd contacted Darner to make the edits to the syllabus and Darner re-submitted it later that day.

7. WGSS Minor Revision (revision to existing minor)

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

Ferrence noted one of the departments impacted by the revision, the Department of History, had submitted a letter opposing the revision. He added WGSS had proposed removing courses from the required course list and replacing them with other options to make the minor more flexible and inclusive. Ferrence asked who gets to decide the courses required for the minor. Hurd responded that WGSS has that authority, and that the Council could send the revision request back to WGSS with History's concerns or vote to approve/oppose the revision.

Council members discussed if the changes to the required and elective courses lists were actually more restrictive or if it created the flexibility WGSS wanted. Members also discussed if the minor was truly an IDS minor with the argument where else would it reside if not IDS.

Aitken made a motion to table discussion to the next meeting due to time constraints. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Information Items:

8. Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education (AVPUE) Candidate Sessions

Ferrence reminded Council members they had received invitations to attend an interview session with each AVPUE candidate as part of the search process. He encouraged members to attend.

9 Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 1/16/2026-1/29/2026

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

- ANT 105 People and Food – approved for STEM designation
- FCS 222 Cultural Diversity in Dress – approved for Individuals and Society designation
- LGS 102 Introduction to Law and Justice – approved for Individuals and Society designation
- MUS 139A20 Ensembles Percussion – approved for Creative Arts designation

Rivadeneyra made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rejack.

Meeting adjourned: 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons