

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

Presiding: Rebekka Darner

Present: Brian Aitken, Rebekka Darner, Katie Fisher, Amy Hurd, Lance Lippert, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Liz Sattler, Georgia Tsouvala, Gary Weilbacher, Chad Woolard (late arrival), and Chris Worland

Guest: Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

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

Action Items:

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

The course revision was proposed by Amelia Noel-Elkins, Director of University College.

Worland commented the proposal was well done and that the request seemed to align with what the University does in general. Darner added that she appreciated the course as it was trying to keep up-to-date to reflect changes in the application process for medical school, as well as provide an opportunity for students to explore all health-related careers and form an alternative plan if necessary.

Aitken noted the only change to the course would be changing the course number to IDS 294. He added the hope was to begin marketing the class to students earlier. Currently the course is marketed toward, and taken by juniors. According to Aitken, this revised course would be pushed more toward sophomores. Darner agreed it was better to market the course earlier to students to give them a better opportunity to make a conscious career choice, or change, if need be.

Lippert asked for clarification as to how much earlier this course would be marketed to students. Aitken responded the plan was to begin marketing the course to first semester sophomores rather than juniors starting next academic year. Tsouvala asked for validation that the course was not being offered for general education credit. Aitken confirmed this was the case and noted the reason the Council was reviewing the request was because it was an IDS course.

The question was called. A motion was made by Aitken to allow approve the course revision. Sattler seconded. Nine in favor, none opposed, and one abstained. The motion passed.

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

The course revision was proposed by Amelia Noel-Elkins, Director of University College.

Worland asked if the reason the request was made to change the course number to IDS 398A02 was to gear the course toward juniors. Aitken confirmed the course was geared more toward juniors. He added currently, students take IDS 194 and IDS 298A02 close together. By renumbering both courses and changing when they are marketed, the hope is to have a greater separation between the time students take both courses. In addition, Aitken noted the version of this course offered by the

Department of Biological Sciences (BSC) is 398 and that the requested change would make the IDS course comparable to its counterpart.

Darner added the reason the course is offered in both BSC and IDS is that not all pre-med students are Biology majors. Those non-majors then take the IDS version of the course. Hurd mentioned the pre-professional advising relationship between University College and BSC had improved dramatically and both advisors work well together.

Worland asked if both versions of the course were taught the same way. Darner responded she did not know how the BSC version was taught but felt they were most likely equivalent as the advisors goal was to give everyone the same advising experience. Aitken added the 194 course was co-taught by both pre-professional advisors.

Lippert asked if there was a prerequisite for taking the upper level course and asked if a student could take it more than once. Aitken responded a student must complete the 194 course as the prerequisite and Sattler noted the proposal contained language stating the IDS course was not for credit if the student completed the BSC version of the same course.

The question was called. A motion was made by Worland to approve the course revision. Tsouvala seconded. Nine in favor, none opposed, and one abstained. The motion passed.

3. Religious Studies minor (program revision)

The revision was proposed by Dr. Daniel Breyer, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy.

Darner noted the proposed revision included reducing the number of required credit hours from 21 to 18. In addition, the revision would remove the requirement for students to take specific courses across several disciplines and instead, would encourage students to take course work across pathways. Several courses were recommended to be removed and/or added to the minor. The affected majors for these changes were all contacted and supported the proposal.

Hurd informed the Council that the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) had been seeing more requests by minors to reduce the number of required hours to 18. Lippert noted part of the rationale provided for removing specific course pathway requirements was to make completing the minor less restrictive and cause fewer problems for students. Darner added that was common as if a certain course(s) is only offered once every other year or so, it creates a bottleneck for those students who can no longer complete the minor in a timely manner. Lippert believed the overall substance of the minor remained the same and Aitken noted many of the courses in the program remained the same.

Lippert questioned why the Council was reviewing the proposal as it appeared to be a Philosophy minor as opposed to an IDS minor. Hurd responded there is currently a disconnect for a few IDS minors in that they are considered an IDS minor, but yet in terms of catalog, are placed within their respective departments as opposed to the IDS section. Hurd added that no one she has spoken to has yet to be able to explain why this is the case and mentioned this particular minor does not go through the IDS minor program review process. Hurd has contacted the chairperson to discuss if the department would like to remain an IDS minor or have it officially housed within the department. The matter is currently under discussion within the department.

Lippert asked if it would be problematic for the Council to approve the revision. Hurd responded that until the funding model for IDS as a whole is changed, this will continue to be a problem for quite some time. She explained that IDS minors do not have centralized funding and that the College of Arts and Sciences provides support for many of the minors. There is no control over which IDS courses are offered each term and by whom. Lippert asked where the funds generated by the courses goes to which Hurd responded that tuition goes back to the office of the Vice President for Finance and Planning and not to the Office of the Provost.

The question was called. A motion was made by Tsouvala to approve the revisions to the Religious Studies minor. Rivadeneyra seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

4. MQM 120 Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in the Workplace (proposed for SS)

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Tina Thompson, Associate Professor, Department of Management and Quantitative Methods.

Tsouvala reminded everyone the Council had seen this proposal before. Worland added the initial proposal was asking for the ICL designation. Hurd reminded the Council the course was originally proposed late last spring. As the Council did not have time to review the course before breaking for summer and the department wished to offer the course in fall 2019, the request was made by the department to approve the course without any General Education designation which was approved. Last fall, Thompson proposed the course for the SS designation which was denied by the Council. After discussing with Thompson, the Council made the suggestion the course seemed to be a better fit for the SS designation.

Darner added that at the time, the Council also had reservations with the version of the course that was to be offered in Barbados and suggested it be proposed as a decimalized version of MQM 120. Lippert asked if both courses were for AMALI credit. Aitken responded only the decimalized version was proposed for AMALI credit. Simmons reminded the Council it was not the approving body for AMALI and only the request for the SS designation was under the purview of the Council.

The question was called. Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve MQM 120 for the SS designation. Woolard seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

5. MQM 120A01 Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in the Workplace: Barbados (proposed for SS)

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Tina Thompson, Associate Professor, Department of Management and Quantitative Methods.

Based on discussion from the previous action item, the question was called. A motion was made by Sattler to approve MQM 120A01 for the SS designation. Lippert seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Hurd will forward the proposal to the AMALI faculty committee for review.

Discussion/Informational Items:

6. General Education Task Force Update

A handout was provided to Council members outlining the progress of the General Education Task Force. Hurd informed members focus groups will be held in late February and early March. There are

currently four being held for advisors, and two for administrators. Both groups have been sent emails and invited to attend. There will be two focus groups held for faculty. An email invitation should be going out to all faculty next Monday because we cannot send a message to faculty directly. Dr. Jeri Beggs, Professor, Department of Marketing, will be facilitating the focus groups. Focus groups will be held with select groups of students and within classes. Aitken added Beggs will be meeting with the University College Peer Advisors next week. Hurd added an article regarding the General Education Task Force appeared in today's *Media Report*.

7. Misc. Items

Lippert has lined up a graduate assistant to assist with coding the open ended questions for the General Education student survey. He is waiting further direction from Derek Meyers as to how to proceed.

Tsouvala gave Dr. Michaelene Cox a list of concerns regarding the proposed revision to the International Studies minor. Cox will be meeting with Dr. Ross Kennedy, Chairperson, Department of History, to discuss these concerns. Tsouvala hopes there will be a revised proposal ready for the Council's next meeting.

Lippert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Woolard seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Soemer Simmons