

Council on General Education Minutes

April 7, 2026

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Malinda Aiello, Brian Aitken, Mouna Bounouader, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, and Jing Wang

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approve March 17, 2026 Minutes

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

2. Approve March 31, 2026 Minutes

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

3. PHY 108 College Physics I (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – SL designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. David Marx, Associate Professor, Department of Physics

Ferrence reminded Council members that the course proposal had been sent back for revision during the previous meeting as the Council questioned if the GE27 STEM designation was appropriate. Following the meeting, it was discovered the department had submitted the course in error for the STEM designation and wished to propose it for the SL designation instead. The department revised the proposal and re-submitted the proposal asking for the SL designation.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve PHY 108 for the GE27 SL designation. Seconded by Murphy.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

4. PHY 110 Physics for Science and Engineering I (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – SL designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. David Marx, Associate Professor, Department of Physics

As with the PHY 108 proposal, the PHY 110 proposal was sent back to the department for revision by the Council at its last meeting as members questioned if the GE27 STEM designation was appropriate. Following the meeting, it was discovered the department had submitted the course in error for the STEM designation and wished to propose it for the SL designation instead. The department revised the proposal and re-submitted the proposal asking for the SL designation.

Clemmons made a motion to approve PHY 110 for the GE27 SL designation. Seconded by Murphy.

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

5. GEO 206 Oceans, Climate, & the Environment (new course proposal)

- **Proposed for GE14 – QR designation**
- **Proposed for BS-SMT graduation requirement**
- **Proposed for GE27 – QL designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Yiming Guo, Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment.

Ferrence noted the proposal was for a new course and was requesting both GE14 and GE27 designations as well as the BS-SMT graduation requirement designation. He reminded Council members that, if approved, students would not be permitted to double-dip the course to fulfill both the General Education designation and BS-SMT graduation requirements. Students would have to choose which requirement the course would fulfill. Ferrence pointed out several editorial revisions that would need to be made in the anchor syllabi which included mention of GE28 instead of GE27 and the use of a different category designation. Rivadeneyra added the max number of times a student could enroll was listed at 300 and would need corrected as well.

Aitken thought the anchor syllabus was confusing and noted the course topics had some that fit the GE27 QL designation while others seemed to align more with the GE27 SL designation. Based on the anchor syllabus and content, Rejack wondered if the department meant to request the QL designation. Hurd responded she had asked the department if they wanted to change designations to the ELCE designation, and they did not want to do so.

Regarding the GE14 QR designation request, Ferrence felt the course had a “mathy” element to it that made sense for that designation. Rivadeneyra added she had gone back and forth with the department and with the course’s proposed topics and strong emphasis on math, she felt the course would be a better fit in either the ELCE or STEM designations for GE27. Krcmarik agreed that the course felt more aligned with the STEM designation. Aitken also agreed the topics were clearly science-related while the assignments suggested a QL focus. He also thought the department did an excellent job with the course description.

Aiello noted that from an IAI perspective, based on the course description, she would submit the course for consideration for the IAI-Earth Science designation. She expected the course to have some math in it but not be the majority focus and asked if the course would have a prerequisite. Rivadeneyra responded the course would not have a prerequisite but asked as the course was applying for the QL designation, should not the majority of the course be focused on math. Rejack asked what was meant by QL and if this is the only course students would take to satisfy a math/math focused course, would this course count.

Hurd noted students would be required to solve numerical problem sets as part of the expected assignments. Aiello asked if there was a percentage threshold that needed to be met to qualify. Hurd responded that there was none. Council members did not know if there was enough evidence to justify the QL designation and would like to offer the department the chance to speak to the Council directly to discuss it further.

Rejack made a motion to table GEO 206 to ask the department to speak to the Council and/or provide additional information. Seconded by Bounouader.

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

Hurd will contact the department.

6. SOC 330 Society and Environment (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27-AWI designation**

The proposal was submitted by Natalie Schaad, Assistant to the Chairperson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Ferrence noted the course was an existing course proposed for the AWI designation and, as a 300-level course, would require an “extra lookie” by the Council. He noted the writing assignments in the course included an individual and group paper as well as quizzes and wondered if this was enough writing assignments for the designation. Hurd responded that the AWI designation was broader than the current LH designation. The LH designation requires at least five writing assignments while a number is not determined for the AWI designation. She added AWI courses would be considered as a second writing course.

Council members discussed the requirements for the AWI designation. Rejack noted a distinguishing requirement for the category was doing research in/of the practice of writing. Ferrence thought the course met the required tasks and seemed to align with the AWI designation. He noted the reflection component could be construed as part of a research process. Rejack responded he thought the course demonstrated engagement and a different kind of writing but wondered if there was really evidence of research or inquiry about the writing process.

Clemmons thought the course seemed to be more of a capstone course for Sociology majors and wondered if students outside of the major would be able to do well in the course if they had no prior subject knowledge. Aitken wondered based on the course description if the course was truly a writing course or a Sociology course which had a writing component. Ferrence asked if the course aligned with the criteria for the AWI designation. Aitken and Rejack did not feel that it did. Krcmarik wondered if the new budget model was influencing the choice of designation by the department.

Rejack asked if a percentage threshold of writing assignments had been established to meet the AWI designation. Hurd responded that unlike the current LH designation or AMALI, a definite number of assignments or percentage had not been set and that it was purposely left for the Council to determine. Aitken felt the course did not emphasize writing while Rivadeneyra responded she thought it sort of did but the emphasis was on Sociology writing. Ferrence asked if a better alignment of the assignments would help and felt an implicit prerequisite of previous knowledge/background in Sociology was implied. Rivadeneyra thought it was part of the issue but felt the course content was an issue as well. She felt the class did not pass the “extra lookie” test. Wang asked who currently enrolled in the course. Aitken responded it was typically junior or senior Sociology students or IDS majors.

Aitken made a motion to reject SOC 330 for the AWI designation. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

7. CJS 220 Death & Justice (new course proposal)

- **Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation**

The proposal was submitted by Jazmyn Niembazaa, Program Student Advisor, Department of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Ferrence noted the course was a new course being proposed for the EHC designation. Based on the provided course description, he felt the course seemed to capture the requirements of the designation. Aitken thought the rationale provided was better than the actual course catalog description and suggested it be edited to better reflect information in the rationale. Aiello questioned if the course was too much of a major course to be a good fit in General Education. Rivadeneyra thought it was broad enough and that it was an interesting topic.

Rejack did not have an issue but with the EHC category. The category was constructed to open up beyond the traditional Humanities category so there will be many courses now that kind of fit. He wondered if the course was covering all the requirements and thought, in theory, it could be. Hurd responded that the change to the EHC category was made by the Academic Senate. The category was originally proposed as more hardcore Humanities, but the Academic Senate changed it to include more Social Science based courses. Council members discussed whether the course should be proposed for the IS designation instead.

Rejack made a motion to table CJS 220 for additional information from the department. Seconded by Bounouader.

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

Hurd will contact the department.

8. ANT 210 Utopias and Dystopias: Indigenous Latin America (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE14-SS designation**
- **Proposed for GE27-IS designation**

9. LAL 210 Utopias and Dystopias: Indigenous Latin America (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE14-SS designation**
- **Proposed for GE27-IS designation**

10. POL 151 Introduction to International Relations (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27-IS designation**

11. CTK 120 History of Games

- **Proposed for GE14-FA designation**
- **Proposed for GE27-CA designation**

12. ELE 160 Principles of Hardware Cybersecurity and Digital Trust (new course proposal)

- **Proposed for GE27-STEM designation**

13. **MUS 153 Black Music I (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation
14. **MUS 154 Black Music II (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation
15. **MUS 155 The Orchestra Explored: From Haydn to Hollywood (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE14 – FA designation
 - Proposed for GE27 – CA designation
16. **TEC 150 Graphic Communications Technology (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – CA designation
17. **HSC 270 Global Contexts (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
18. **CTK 235 Critical Making with AI (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE14 – ICL designation
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
19. **MUS 181A08 Marching Band Drum Line and Auxiliaries (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – CA designation
20. **MUS 281A08 Marching Band Drum Line and Auxiliaries (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – CA designation
21. **MUS 185 University Choir (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – CA designation
22. **MUS 239A26 Ensemble: Experimental Music (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE14 – FA designation
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
23. **MAT 113 Elements of Mathematical Reasoning (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – QL designation
24. **MAT 113A01 Elements of Mathematical Reasoning: With Math Principles (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – QL designation
25. **PSY 270 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Psychology (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
26. **ECO 260 Introduction to Policy Evaluation Through Case Studies (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
27. **HSC 105 Medical Terminology (existing course)**

- **Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation**

Action Items 8-27 were tabled due to time constraints.

Information Items:

28. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 3/27/26-4/3/26

<https://gened.illinoisstate.edu/gened27/implementation-plan/>

- PHY 102 Atoms to Galaxies – approved for Scientific Literacy designation

Rejack made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Aitken.

Meeting adjourned: 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons