

Council on General Education Minutes

April 14, 2026

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Brian Aitken, Mouna Bounouader, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Robbie Shorter, and Christian Wesselink

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Discussion Items:

1. Additional Meetings

Hurd informed Council members the longer meeting scheduled for Friday, May 1 was still on the schedule and asked if members would be able to attend. The meeting is scheduled to last several hours as an attempt to clear the Council's proposal backlog. It was also suggested that a meeting be held after May 15. A poll or email will be sent out to members to verify if they can attend on May 1 to ensure the Council will have quorum.

Action Items:

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

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

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

Ferrence reminded the Council the proposal had been discussed at the previous meeting. At that time, the Council tabled the proposal and asked the department to provide clarification regarding the designations it was seeking as several different ones were mentioned throughout the proposal and syllabus. The Council also questioned whether the course was a good fit for the GE27 QL designation. Hurd contacted the department after the meeting. Based on the Council's feedback the department resubmitted the proposal asking it to be considered for the GE27 STEM designation instead of the QL designation.

Aitken thought the GE27 STEM designation request made sense but questioned the GE14-QR designation request. Hurd replied she had not discussed the GE14 request with the department. Aitken noted the department already had other courses that fulfilled that designation that made more sense such as GEO 138.

Aitken made a motion to reject GEO 206 for the GE14 QR designation. Seconded by Rejack.

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

Council members had no objections to the BS-SMT and GE27 STEM designation requests. Rejack asked if the department meant to change the GE14 designation to SMT when it revised its original request for the GE27 designation to STEM. Council members thought this may be the case.

Aitken made a motion to approve GEO 206 for the GE14 SMT designation, the BS-SMT graduation requirement, and the GE27 STEM designation pending confirmation from the department of the GE14 designation change to SMT. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

Hurd will contact the department.

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

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

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

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

The proposals for ANT 210 and LAL 210 were submitted by Natalie Schaad, Assistant to the Chairperson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

The Council reviewed action items 3 and 4 together as the courses were cross-listed. Ferrence told Council members the courses currently had the AMALI graduation designation but neither currently held a General Education designation. Rejack noted while the course title had been changed to “Indigenous Latin America,” the anchor syllabus still had “South America” listed in some places. Hurd will ask the department to update the syllabus.

Rejack made a motion to approve ANT 210 and LAL 210 for the GE14 SS and GE27 IS designations. Seconded by Murphy.

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

5. ECO 260 Introduction to Policy Evaluation Through Case Studies (new course proposal)

- **Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Dimitrios Nikolaou, Chair, Department of Economics.

Ferrence noted it was a new course that was requesting the GE27 ELCE designation. Aitken thought that based on the course description and the anticipated community engagement project, the course seemed to fit within the ELCE designation. Hurd agreed and noted the class was comprised of all case studies. Rejack asked for clarification on ELCE designation requirements, specifically if the designation required courses to have both experiential learning and civic engagement components or just one of those. While he felt the course had both of those, he noted the Council had begun the initial discussion regarding the ELCE designation but did not fully answer the question. Hurd agreed that the Council would need to revisit that conversation at some point.

Aitken made a motion to approve ECO 260 for the GE27 ELCE designation. Seconded by Bounouader.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

6. MUS 181A08 Marching Band Drum Line and Auxiliaries (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – CA designation**

The proposal was submitted by Janet Tulley, Assistant Dean, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts.

7. MUS 281A08 Marching Band Drum Line and Auxiliaries (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – CA designation**

The proposal was submitted by Janet Tulley, Assistant Dean, Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts.

8. MUS 185 University Choir (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – CA designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Adriana Ransom, Chair, School of Music.

The Council chose to discuss action items 6-8 together as the discussion involved what the requirements were to be considered for the CA designation. Hurd informed the Council that all three courses had been proposed for expedited review but had been recommended by reviewers to come to the full Council for review as there were 1-hour courses. Hurd added that the Council had already approved MUS 181A01 and MUS 281A01, Marching Band, for the GE27 CA designation through the expedited process. Aitken asked if MUS 181A08 and 281A08 had to be approved then to which Hurd responded depending on what the Council decided, she could contact the school to see if they would be willing to re-submit them.

Krcmarik felt the courses fit better in the ELCE designation as opposed to the CA designation as they were all more about performances than music reflection or theory which is more of what the CA designation was designed toward. Hurd agreed but asked if the designation request were changed to ELCE, would the courses meet the civic engagement criteria of that designation. Krcmarik felt the courses all had civic engagement elements to them. Wesselink agreed and thought MUS 181A08 and MUS 281A08 had more of a civic engagement component than MUS 181A01 and MUS 281A01 based on his roommate's experience in the courses.

Aitken agreed that they could make a better argument for the ELCE designation than the CA designation as the outreach required in the courses could be framed toward civic engagement. He added that there is not a reflection component in the courses which is a requirement for the CA designation. Ferrence also disagreed with the CA designation request but noted as different 181 variations had already been approved for the designation, did the school really want that designation or would they be receptive to changing over to the ELCE designation instead. Krcmarik thought they may be and felt the proposals had been submitted prior to additional discussions within the College regarding course and budget positioning.

Rejack asked for clarification as he did not see an issue with the CA designation request. Ferrence responded the issue he had with it was that as part of the CA designation description, there needs to be reflection about artistic pieces or an analysis of a performance as opposed to just having performance itself. Aitken added CA designated courses must include assignments and that was not addressed in the proposals.

Ferrence asked Council members if they felt the courses could potentially be approved with the ELCE designation if the school decided to re-propose them with that designation. Rejack did not feel they could, while Wesselink thought they had a better chance of arguing the civic engagement requirement than they did with the CA requirement. Krcmarik thought it would be possible depending on how the proposals were revised to better align with the ELCE learning objectives. Hurd said she could discuss with Tulley to get her thoughts.

Shorter made a motion to table MUS 181A08, MUS 281A08, and MUS 185 for additional information from the school. Seconded by Clemmons.

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

Hurd will contact Tulley to discuss this.

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

- **Proposed for GE27-IS designation**

The proposal was submitted by Brittney Vietti, Academic Advisor, Department of Politics and Government.

Ferrence questioned the framework of the course and asked which international system was being referenced. Hurd responded she had assumed it was the political international system. Wesselink added he had taken the course previously and noted it was a comparative politics course to which Shorter agreed as well. Ferrence suggested an editorial change be made to make that clearer and suggested it be updated to “international systems in politics.” Aitken felt the course was a good fit for the IS designation but suggested the course description be revised to include language from the course rationale.

Aitken made a motion to approve POL 151 for the GE27 IS designation pending update of the course description with language from the course rationale. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

10. CTK 120 History of Games

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

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Dan Cox, Assistant Professor, School of Creative Technologies.

Ferrence informed Council members the course was seeking both GE14 and GE27 designations. He wondered if the course was truly a GE27 CA course and thought it may be a better fit in a different category. He noted a typo referring to GE2017 instead of GE2027 in the anchor syllabus that would need to be fixed as well. Hurd added the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures offer a similar course, but she had been in touch with both department and they had both approved of the CTK course.

Rejack asked why the course was not proposed for the GE27 EHC designation. Krcmarik responded at the time the course was submitted, it was not clear that the school could request course designations

outside of Fine Arts. Clemmons asked if that was the case, if the school requested the GE27 designation to be changed to something other than the CA designation, should the GE14 FA designation request be updated as well. Both Hurd and Aitken thought the most appropriate category for GE14 would be Humanities.

Krcmarik made a motion to table CTK 120 pending additional information/clarification from the school as to whether it would prefer to pursue different GE14 and GE27 designations. Rejack seconded.

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

Hurd will contact the school.

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

- **Proposed for GE27-STEM designation**

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Srinivas Rahul Sapireddy, Assistant Professor, College of Engineering.

Ferrence noted it was a new course seeking the GE27 STEM designation from the College of Engineering. He added several courses had already been approved for the same designation. Rejack and Aitken both thought the course was a good fit for the designation with Aitken adding he thought the course description looked good.

Clemmons made a motion to approve ELE 160 for the GE27 STEM designation. Seconded by Shorter.

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

12. MUS 153 Black Music I (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation**

13. MUS 154 Black Music II (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation**

14. MUS 155 The Orchestra Explored: From Haydn to Hollywood (new course proposal)

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

15. TEC 150 Graphic Communications Technology (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – CA designation**

16. HSC 270 Global Contexts (existing course)

- **Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation**

17. CTK 235 Critical Making with AI (new course proposal)

- **Proposed for GE14 – ICL designation**
- **Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation**

18. **MUS 239A26 Ensemble: Experimental Music (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE14 – FA designation
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
19. **MAT 113 Elements of Mathematical Reasoning (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – QL designation
20. **MAT 113A01 Elements of Mathematical Reasoning: With Math Principles (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – QL designation
21. **PSY 270 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Psychology (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
22. **HSC 105 Medical Terminology (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation
23. **AGR 363 Agricultural Statistics (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – QL designation
24. **CSD 115 Human Communication: Speech, Language, and Hearing (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation
25. **AGR 391 Team & Organizational Leadership, Communication, & Change (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
26. **SOC 250 Happiness, Wellbeing, and Society (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE14 – SS designation
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation
27. **ENG 145 Writing in Academic Disciplinary Genres (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation
28. **ENG 145A13 Business Writing (existing course)**
 - Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation
29. **SOC 251 Social Justice Practice (new course proposal)**
 - Proposed for GE14 – SS designation
 - Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

Action items 12-29 were tabled due to time constraints.

Information Items:

30. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 4/3/26-4/9/26
<https://gened.illinoisstate.edu/gened28/implementation-plan/>
 - CSD 212 Hearing Science and Audiology – approved for STEM designation

- PHY 207 Energy and the Environment – approved for STEM designation
- ENG 250 Literature of the Bible – approved for EHC designation
- PHY 103 Astronomy and Space Science – approved for STEM designation

Rejack made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Bounouader.

Meeting adjourned: 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons