

Council on General Education Minutes
April 21, 2020
10-11:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting

Presiding: Rebekka Darner

Present: Brian Aitken, Rebekka Darner, Katie Fisher, Amy Hurd, Stella Liao, Lance Lippert, Carla Pohl, Sally Parry, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Liz Sattler, Georgia Tsouvala, Chad Woolard, and Chris Worland

Guests:
Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

Darner called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Action Items:

1. HSC 204 Health Data Analysis and Statistics (existing course proposed for QR designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Chris Grieshaber, Chairperson, Department of Health Sciences.

Darner informed Council members the course already existed. Currently the course is only available to Health Science majors. However, in seeking the QR designation, the Department will open the class to non-majors as well.

Rivadeneyra noted the point of the QR requirement in General Education was to teach students how to use data in real world settings. She felt the course made sense and would add value to the QR designation. Aitken also agreed that as long as the course was not major blocked, opening it up would allow a lot more students to enroll.

The question was called. Pohl made a motion to approve HSC 204 for the QR designation. Rivadeneyra seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

2. Water Sustainability Studies Minor

The minor was proposed by Dr. Joan Brehm, Chairperson, Department of Anthropology and Sociology.

Darner noted that the new IDS minor's proposal included a lot of course options and she could envision the minor supporting other majors. Rivadeneyra loved the interdisciplinary approach between the Department of Anthropology and Sociology and the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment and was excited the minor focused on real world issues. Lippert asked which department would be the home department. Parry responded she believed as Brehm submitted the proposal, her department would be the home department.

The question was called. Parry made a motion to approve the Water Sustainability Studies minor. Tsouvala seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

3. EAF 205A01 Social (In)Justice and Schooling

During the fall semester, Dr. Pamela Hoff, Professor, Department of Education Administration and Foundation, proposed the course for the ICL designation. The Council tabled the course and asked Hoff

to provide additional information. Darner reached out to Hoff prior to the meeting and asked if she had the requested information. Hoff said she would submit the information, but nothing was submitted by the time of the meeting.

Information/Discussion Item:

4. IDS 213 Comics, Graphic Novels, and Society Update

Hurd informed the Council representatives from the Departments of Psychology and English met to discuss the course. After speaking with the representative from Psychology, Hurd believes the issues have been worked out. She will touch base with the Department of English to confirm.

5. International Studies Minor Update

In February, the Council had asked Dr. Michaelene Cox, Department of Politics and Government, to submit additional information to address the Council's concerns/questions regarding the proposed minor. Information was not available at the time of the meeting. Hurd will follow-up with Cox over the summer.

6. MQM 120A01 Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in the Workplace AMALI Update

Hurd informed the Council the request submitted by Dr. Tina Thompson, Associate Professor, Department of Management and Quantitative Methods, to consider MQM 120A01 for the AMALI designation had been denied by the faculty committee. Hurd will follow-up with Thompson and committee members over the summer to discuss the issues members had with the course.

7. General Education Task Force Update

With how COVID effected the spring semester, the Task Force was not able to get as far along as Hurd would have liked. Hurd told the Council the Executive Committee will be having their last meeting of the academic year on May 1. Sub-committees worked on establishing best practices but were unable to finalize prior to the shutdown. The Task Force was able to complete most focus group sessions and will be utilizing on student survey data from last spring.

Hurd will be meeting with Task Force co-chairs later today to discuss next steps and hopes to be able to work on data analysis over the summer. Lippert added he would be meeting with Derek Meyers later in the day to provide feedback on the data analysis Lippert and his students did on the student survey data.

8. Fall Planning

Hurd told the Council if anyone had thoughts on how to approach fall, she would be happy to listen. Parry asked if Hurd thought students would take the fall semester off if courses were online. Hurd didn't know. Rivadeneyra pointed out classes were just a small part of the overall social distancing issue as student living, dining elevators, etc. would all be impacted.

Hurd added it provided a good opportunity to think about what higher education looked like and what the University could do differently. Aitken reported student feedback shows that students are hanging in there are starting to appreciate those experiences such as an in-person 8:00am class.

Parry expressed concern in regards to the impact on the international program. Lippert added those international students who graduate in May are in limbo as they are unable to find a job, and yet, they are also unable to return home due to travel restrictions.

Darner also noted there is a common misconception that the current generation of students is extremely tech-savvy. This is causing an inflated level of expectation for how quickly and easily students can respond to the change to online. Lippert added that students do not know how to be an online student. Parry suggested the upcoming Preview could incorporate information on how to be an online student in to one of its session for incoming freshmen.

Fisher noted her transition from in-person instruction to online went fairly smooth. Her professors already had online teaching experience and had sent a survey to students to get an idea of their technological skills, availability of devices and internet service, etc. She also agreed that students aren't as tech savvy as assumed. Lippert asked if Fisher referenced the Redbirds Keep Learning website. Fisher said she hadn't visited the site.

9. Darner

Council members thanked Darner for serving as chair this year.

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

Meeting adjourned: 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Soemer Simmons