

Council on General Education Minutes

April 21, 2026

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

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

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approve April 14, 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. CTK 120 History of Games (existing course)

- Proposed for GE14-FA designation
- Proposed for GE27-EHC designation

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

The proposal had been discussed at the previous Council meeting. Ferrence noted at the last meeting, members felt the course may be a better fit for the GE27 EHC designation instead of the GE27 CA designation. Based on the Council's feedback, the school revised the proposal to request the GE27 EHC designation and re-submitted it for review.

Ferrence noted references to the Creative Arts designation needed to be updated to Exploring the Human Condition in the course rationale section, the alignments documentation and in the student outcomes section of the anchor syllabus. Council members felt the GE14 FA designation request made sense as well.

Rejack made a motion to approve CTK 120 for the GE14 FA designation and the GE27 EHC designation pending the revisions to the anchor syllabus, course rationale, and alignment documentation to replace references of the CA designation to the EHC designation. Seconded by Krcmarik.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

3. TEC 150 Graphic Communications Technology (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – CA designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Josh Brown, Chair, Department of Technology

Ferrence noted that based on student assignments and the outline of topics, the course seemed to include the review/reflection component needed for the CA designation as opposed to just the creation of graphic communications. Clemmons agreed and felt the course was a good fit for the CA designation. Rejack agreed with the CA designation but noted the percentage did not total to 100% on the anchor syllabus in the tasks/assignments section. He asked if the anchor syllabus should be completely accurate

or if was alright to be just like “eh.” Council members thought it was alright to be a little “eh” but that it should not be pure “eh” and felt the best practice would be to have the department correct the issue. Ferrence asked if students could view the anchor syllabus. Aitken responded they could not, but it would be fantastic if they could. Bounouader asked if other institutions had anchor syllabi available. Krcmarik responded that all departments were to have copies of their syllabi and students could request to see them at the department level.

Aitken agreed with the CA designation but felt the course description did not scream CA. He suggested the course rationale that was submitted be copied over and used as the course description as well.

Aitken made a motion to approve TEC 150 for the CA designation pending the editorial changes discussed by the Council. Seconded by Rejack.

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

4. MAT 113 Elements of Mathematical Reasoning (existing course)

5. MAT 113A01 Elements of Mathematical Reasoning: With Math Principles (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – QL designation

The proposals were submitted by Dr. Benton Duncan, Chair, Department of Mathematics.

The Council discussed action items 4-5 together. Ferrence noted the courses had a prerequisite of MAT 102 or college level math or 60 hours and 2.5 gpa. He questioned whether this would be permissible for both courses to be in General Education. Aitken explained both courses had been submitted for expedited review. But as the courses were moving from four credit hours to three credit hours, they were not eligible to be expedited. He added the department was reducing the number of credit hours to better align with actual course requirements.

Aitken also noted that due to recent changes in ALEKS placement requirements, the prerequisite statement on the proposal was no longer correct. It should now include language to the effect of MAT 102, high school math competency, or college level math. Aitken confirmed almost all students coming in would automatically meet this requirement. Rivadeneyra added that the intent was to make the prerequisite kinder. Ferrence asked what the difference was between MAT 113 and MAT 113A01. Aitken explained that students who had lower placement exam scores could take an additional two-hour companion class, IDS 114, with MAT 113A01 to receive extra support.

Rivadeneyra asked if IDS 114 and MAT 113A01 were corequisites. Aitken confirmed they were. He added that with the exception in the change to the number of credit hours for each course, everything else remained the same. Rivadeneyra noted the proposal was started back in October which would explain the discrepancy in the prerequisite language as those updates occurred later. Aitken confirmed the 60 hours requirement was a trial but that it would no longer apply due to the recent changes to the ALEKS placement. Rejack noted the GE27 learning objectives were not present in the student outcomes section. Wang noted the template had been updated in Coursedog after the proposal had been submitted to request the learning objectives be included.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to send the MAT 113 and MAT 113A01 proposals back to the department for revision to update the prerequisite language and add the GE27 learning outcomes to the anchor syllabus. Seconded by Rejack.

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

6. PSY 270 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Psychology (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Allison Nguyen, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

Ferrence noted the proposal was for a new psychology course with a focus on AI that bridged the area of technology with psychology without requiring a pure programming experience/background. Rejack noted the course was clearly from the psychology discipline and wondered how much STEM would be incorporated. Rivadeneyra responded that the course would be a great psychology class and that many in the field consider themselves to be social scientists. She added the course seemed to be utilizing a psychology lens and the proposal did not mention utilizing the scientific method.

Rejack noted the description said the course would explore different modes but did not know if that meant different modes of inquiry or techniques. Aitken thought the lines were blurred in the description and pointed out HSC 209 was recently approved by expedited review for the STEM designation but was really more of a social science. Rivadeneyra noted that to qualify for the STEM designation, one of the disciplines must be from STEM-related field and that psychology absolutely was STEM.

Ferrence noted that students would participate in hand-on training to analyze and utilize disruptive technologies. Murphy added, while a little “iffy” the final project may incorporate other technologies as well. Rejack felt there were several places that explained the use of AI methods and models and liked the course for the STEM designation. Bounouader felt it made sense on how the Psychology department approached the AI aspect with a focus on psychology as compared to a recent AI proposal by the College of Engineering which focused more on technology. Members noted the course could be used for a possible AI certificate or minor.

Rejack made a motion to approve PSY 270 for the STEM designation. Seconded by Murphy.

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

7. HSC 105 Medical Terminology (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – STEM designation

The proposal was submitted by Anjie Almeda, Coordinator of Student Success, Department of Health Sciences.

After reviewing the proposal, Council members felt, why the course was necessary, it seemed to be a stretch to fulfill the STEM designation. Members did not see how the course adequately met the STEM criteria and had concerns about the course potentially being the only STEM course a student was required to take.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to reject HSC 105 for the STEM designation. Seconded by Aitken.

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

8. AGR 363 Agricultural Statistics (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – QL designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Nicholas Heller, Associate Professor, Department of Agriculture.

Ferrence noted the proposal was for an existing 3000-level course for the QL designation. The course did not have a prerequisite and currently fulfills the BS-SMT degree requirement. He reminded Council members students would not be able to double dip the course to fulfill both the BS-SMT and QL requirements. He wondered if it was a course that was commonly taken by students outside of the major. Ferrence added there was definitely a math component to the course.

Rivadeneyra felt the course overview should replace the course description. Bounouader asked aside from it being a 300-level course, who outside of AGR would take the course and felt the course would be very challenging to those outside of the major who could potentially have little to no mathematical background. Rejack asked if students in the major already would be required to take other QL courses and wondered if this course being a QL course was helpful to them. Clemmons thought the course seemed to be more fitting as a capstone course in the major and that it did not read as a General Education course.

Aitken noted that 75% of the students currently taking the course are Biology majors as they can substitute the course in place of taking Calculus II. Ferrence noted based on that he had concerns that this could be the first math course a student enrolled in and wondered if it was too advanced. Both Rejack and Krcmarik felt the course seemed to be a little overwhelming and not realistic for the average student to enroll in without having prior math experience. Ferrence felt the Council should ask for clarification from the department as to why they believed the course belonged in General Education, who they were trying to attract to take the course and if they felt the math in the course would be too advanced for students at an introductory level.

Rejack made a motion to table AGR 363 for additional information from the department. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

9. CSD 115 Human Communication: Speech, Language, and Hearing (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

10. ENG 145 Writing in Academic Disciplinary Genres (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation

11. ENG 145A13 Business Writing (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation

12. HSC 270 Global Contexts (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

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

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

14. AGR 391 Team & Organizational Leadership, Communication, & Change (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

15. SOC 250 Happiness, Wellbeing, and Society (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE14 – SS designation
- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

16. SOC 251 Social Justice Practice (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE14 – SS designation
- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

17. LAL 250 Border Narratives (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

18. AGR 293 Verbal Communication in Agriculture (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE27 – CI designation

19. ANT 270 Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

20. SOC 220 Societies: The Big Picture (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

21. MUS 153 Black Music I (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

22. MUS 154 Black Music II (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

23. MUS 239A26 Ensemble: Experimental Music (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE14 – FA designation
- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

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

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

25. MUS 285 University Choir (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – CA designation

Action items 9-25 were tabled due to time constraints.

Information Items:

26. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 4/10/26-4/16/26
<https://gened.illinoisstate.edu/gened27/implementation-plan/>

Aitken made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Clemmons.

Meeting adjourned: 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons