

Council on General Education Minutes

April 28, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 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, Jing Wang, Christian Wesselink, and Sally Xie

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

1. Approve April 7, 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 April 21, 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. 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 reminded the Council that it had discussed the proposal at its previous meeting. Members had wondered if the department meant to submit the course for the EHC designation, and if so, it may not be a good fit for the designation. The Council sent the course back to the department for revision and asked the designation to either be re-considered or additional information provided to justify the EHC designation request. The department decided to pursue the EHC designation, revised the course information, and submitted the revision to the Council for review.

Rejack felt the department certainly provided a detailed rationale as to why they wished to pursue the EHC designation but wondered why they did not want to change to a different designation. Hurd responded that when the department was contacted, they were not asked to explain why they did not want a different designation, they were asked to either change designations or to provide a rationale as to why the course should be considered for EHC. Aitken did not feel it was a bad thing they pursued the EHC designation as one of the purposes of the new General Education program was to encourage departments to contribute in other areas.

Council members discussed at length and felt the course still lent itself more toward SS than Humanities. However, they felt the department could still make a case for the EHC designation by providing additional information and by updating the anchor syllabus, course description, rationale, and alignments for the readings.

Aitken made a motion to table CJS 220 for revision. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Hurd will contact the department chairperson to discuss it more in depth.

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

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

The course was proposed by Heidi Verticchio, Director of the Speech and Hearing Clinic, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Clemmons noted the course was currently had SS designation in GE14. After reviewing the weekly unit topical outline, she did not see the course as fitting in with the EHC designation. Aitken agreed and felt the course could almost be considered a STEM course. Rivadeneyra questioned if the course was submitted for EHC in error. Clemmons responded she thought the department did want the EHC designation but just did not make the case. Aitken agreed and felt the course was trying to get toward Humanities but did not get there based on the information provided.

Rejack made a motion to reject CSD 115 for the GE27 EHC designation. Seconded by Murphy.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

5. MUS 153 Black Music I (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

6. MUS 154 Black Music II (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

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

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

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

- Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation

9. ENG 145A13 Business Writing (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation

10. HSC 270 Global Contexts (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

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

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

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

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

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

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

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

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

15. LAL 250 Border Narratives (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

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

- Proposed for GE27 – CI designation

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

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

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

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

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

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

20. MUS 285 University Choir (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – CA designation

This action item was tabled to fall 2026 due to time constraints.

Action items 5-20 were tabled due to time constraints.

Information Items:

21. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 4/17/26-4/24/26

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

No expedited courses were approved during this timeframe.

Rejack made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Wesselink.

Meeting adjourned: 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons