

Council on General Education Minutes

April 30, 2024

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Josh Newport, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, and Chris Worland

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

Action Items:

1. Approval of February 6, 2024 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

2. Approval of March 26, 2024 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. Approval of April 2, 2024 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

4. Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies Minor (IDS minor program revision)

The revision was proposed by Dr. Noha Shawki, Professor, Department of Politics and Government.

Ferrence noted the proposal mentioned majors, minors, sequences, and concentrations. He asked for confirmation that concentrations were not transcribed. Hurd confirmed they are not. Ferrence thought the changes in concentrations were used as a way to lump relevant courses together and were meant more to be used for guidance in advising. He had more concerns regarding the course changes outlined in the proposal. Aitken noted that the proposal listed BSC 135 which is not a course. He wondered if it was a typo and if it should be BSC 145. Hurd will verify with Shawki and if so, the change would be an editorial change.

A motion was made by Aitken to approve the program revision. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Discussion/Information Items:

5. General Education Revision Proposal

Newport informed Council members the General Education Revision proposal had been passed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC). With the student member voting to abstain, all other UCC voted to approve and forward to the Academic Senate for consideration. Newport noted the student

felt their questions had been answered during the discussion, but they could not vote confidently either way. Hurd added the student member, Robbie Graham, asked amazing questions during the discussion.

Ferrence asked if Newport felt the UCC was supportive of the proposal. Newport responded he felt it was. Rivadeneyra asked what the student representatives questions/concerns were with the proposal. Newport responded the student was concerned over the inequitable distribution of sub-bullets (learning outcomes) for several of the proposed categories. The student would have also liked to see more specific course details.

Hurd told Council members the proposal was on circulation for two weeks following the UCC's approval. Six or seven individuals from one department provided feedback while it was on circulation. Aitken asked if any new comments/concerns had been submitted while the proposal was on circulation. Hurd responded that the comments/concerns received had all been expressed before. Drs. Horvath and Simonds will forward the proposal to Academic Senate chairperson Dr. Martha Horst for the Senate to begin its review in the fall.

Worland asked if the survey soliciting feedback during the Town Halls were available to students or if the Academic Senate's review would be their first opportunity to see the proposal. Hurd responded she had reached out to the Student Government Association (SGA) president last summer and asked how they wanted to distribute the information to students. She offered to speak to the SGA, but her request was declined. She will reach out over the summer to the new SGA president to see if there would be interest in meeting.

Rejack asked what the Academic Senate's process was for reviewing the proposal. Hurd responded she was not sure. She had spoken with Horst about it and the Academic Senate Executive Board was still trying to determine how to approach the review process.

6. Curriculum Software Update

Hurd informed Council members there were three software proposals that were reviewed. The Purchasing Office just sent proposal information to the State of Illinois for review. There is no timeline yet as to when a software package will be selected, approved, and implemented.

7. Recognition of Outgoing Members

Hurd thanked Ferrence for serving as this year's Council chair. Ferrence thanked all members for their service this year and recognized outgoing members. Antink Meyer, Ferrence, and Xie's terms expired but they were appointed by the Faculty Caucus to serve an additional term. Worland, Goodman, and Newport's terms expired, and they will be replaced by the Academic Senate

Meeting adjourned: 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons