

Council on General Education Minutes

May 1, 2026

Noon-1:30 p.m., STV 140

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

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

Ferrence called the meeting to order at Noon.

1. MUS 139A20 Ensembles Percussion (existing course)

- Proposed to rescind GE27 – CA designation

Ferrence reminded the Council the course had previously been approved through the expedited review process for the CA designation. As the Council further discussed requirements for the CA designation, the approval of the designation for this course was later brought into question as the course may not be an appropriate fit. Krcmarik consulted with Dr. Adriana Ransom and Janet Tulley about the course, and they felt it would be best to remove the General Education designation from all ensembles courses.

Aitken made a motion to remove the CA designation from MUS 139A20. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

2. 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.

Clemmons noted the proposal, readings, and anchor syllabus had all been revised. Hurd told the Council the department was not happy with the Council's earlier decision and felt it was trying to force departments into their traditional categories after encouraging faculty to "step out of the box." Ferrence acknowledged the department's frustration with the process and did not take it personally as those outside of the Council are not aware of the discussions members have had at length while trying to work through this new process. Ferrence felt the additional language the department added tied the course much more clearly to the EHC designation for him. Rivadeneyra felt the EHC made more sense with the revisions and could see the designation more clearly now in the bones of the course.

Clemmons made a motion to approve CJS 220 for the GE27 EHC designation. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

3. MUS 153 Black Music I (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Angelo Favis, Professor, School of Music.

Ferrence noted the proposal was for an existing course for the GE27 ELCE designation and could not be expedited because of the designation choice. While he noted there were alignments provided, he felt the topical outline information was limited and questioned why the course was not a prerequisite for MUS 154 Black Music II. Aitken responded it did not need to be the prerequisite as the courses just spanned different timelines instead of building off one another. Krcmarik confirmed it was not an issue, and the split was due to chronology.

Krcmarik felt she could see the experiential component in the course but struggled with the civic engagement aspect. Aitken noted the catalog description and the course overview do not match and thought there were a few assignments that could possibly allude to civic engagement. He added the course proposal needed work. Rivadeneyra also questioned the choice in designation and felt if the course had been proposed for the CA designation instead, it would have been a slam dunk.

Krcmarik felt the course description did not seem to fit and that better alignment to the learning objectives was needed. Aitken agreed and thought a better explanation of the assignments was needed as well. Krcmarik noted that people were struggling with this category designation in particular and felt clearer guidance was needed. Rivadeneyra noted a workbook had been created to help assist with this category, but Hurd responded with the workbook and required outcomes had not been discussed yet by the Council.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to send MUS 153 back to the school for revision of the description and learning objective alignments to the ELCE designation. Seconded by Aitken.

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

4. MUS 154 Black Music II (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27-ELCE designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Angelo Favis, Professor, School of Music

Council members noted the same concerns about the proposal as previously discussed for MUS 153.

Clemmons made a motion to send MUS 154 back to the school for revision of the description and learning objective alignments to the ELCE designation. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

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

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

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

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

Ferrence thought the FA designation request for GE14 was reasonable but questioned the CA request for GE27 as he did not see the creation-side component of the designation. Wesselink questioned if the creation portion was an actual requirement for the CA designation. Both Rivadeneyra and Krcmarik did not believe it was a requirement. Aitken added the course fulfilled the other requirements outlined as part of the CA designation.

Aitken made a motion to approve MUS 155 for both the GE14 FA and GE27 CA designations. Seconded by Murphy.

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

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

- Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Tara Lyons, Professor, Department of English.

Ferrence noted the course had a prerequisite of ENG 101 and asked if it could still be in General Education. Rivadeneyra responded in this case the prerequisite was allowed as the course was meant to be a second-level writing course. Wesselink asked for further clarification of the prerequisite exemption. Rivadeneyra responded there was an exception built into the new General Education program that allowed prerequisites on courses that truly were second level or courses that needed base knowledge such as having Algebra I as a prerequisite for Algebra II. Clemmons added a rationale for the ENG 101 prerequisite was included in the proposal.

Clemmons made a motion to approve ENG 145 for the AWI designation. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

7. ENG 145A13 Business Writing (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – AWI designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Tara Lyons, Professor, Department of English.

Ferrence noted the course had ENG 101 as a prerequisite as well and wondered if it should automatically be a prerequisite for all AWI courses. The Council decided to discuss the question at a later time. Aitken noted he wanted to approve the course but noted the AWI category description outlined writing in various genres while this course was specific to one. Ferrence felt that being discipline specific did not necessarily mean the course was genre specific. Wesselink and Krcmarik felt the course incorporated different types of writing and genres and would fit into the category.

Aitken made a motion to approve ENG 145A13 for the AWI designation. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

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

8. HSC 270 Global Contexts (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

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

Ferrence noted that while the completion of 30 hours as a course prerequisite had been removed, the learning objectives and several assignments may need to be clarified. Hurd added the course was part of a study abroad experience and Study Abroad approved of the prerequisite being removed. Krcmarik felt more receptive to the request based on that explanation. Ferrence noted the proposal did not give a time frame regarding the length of the experience. Aitken responded it was a short-term experience that typically lasted between 8-10 days.

Rivadeneyra noted there did not seem to have been any alignments made between the course learning objections and the GE27 ELCE designation outcomes. Clemmons questioned the prerequisite and noted the removal had been approved previously as an exception for Honors. She had concerns that FTIC students could then register for the experience during their first semester and wondered if those students would be prepared for such an experience that early in their career. Rivadeneyra felt it was a hidden prerequisite as students must have established an Illinois State gpa to apply to study abroad and incoming FTIC would not have this gpa prior to the study abroad deadline. Hurd responded that it was the intent of the General Education Revision Committee to have study abroad experiences count toward the ELCE designation.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve HSC 270 for the GE27 ELCE designation. Seconded by Wesselink.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

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

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

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

In regard to the GE27 ELCE designation request, Ferrence felt the course easily met the experiential learning component and seemed to be getting to the civic engagement component as well. Rivadeneyra asked how many Artificial Intelligence (AI) courses had already been approved. Bounouader responded that three courses had been approved. Hurd added that they were also in different categories. Rivadeneyra felt the course could be used to create a certificate program.

Krcmarik made a motion to approve CTK 235 for the GE27 ELCE designation. Seconded by Wang.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Council members continued discussion regarding the GE14 ICL designation request. Ferrence thought with civic life and AI being so intertwined, the course could fit the ICL category. Bounouader added Cox had included additional documentation to the proposal outlining the rationale for the ICL request. Krcmarik and Wesselink both expressed they felt the course fell within the ICL designation.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve CTK 235 for the GE14 ICL designation. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

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

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Jay Solomonson, Assistant Professor, Department of Agriculture.

Ferrence noted the proposal was for an existing 300-level course that had no prerequisites. He added the tasks/assignments were not directed to specific outcomes, and while not a deal breaker, it could have been made clearer in the anchor syllabus.

Clemmons had philosophical issues of a 300-level course counting toward General Education. She also did not see how the course would appeal to others outside of the department but felt the course seemed to have more of a business slant. Bounouader added unlike the previous AGR course reviewed for this designation, this proposal did not seem to require an extensive pre-existing knowledge of math. She noted the Council had previously tabled the other course, AGR 363, and had asked the department for additional information.

Members felt the course was a great class but not a good fit for General Education.

Wesselink made a motion to reject AGR 391 for the GE27 ELCE designation. Seconded by Murphy.

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

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

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

The proposal was submitted by Natalie Schaad, Assistant to the Department Chairperson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Ferrence noted the course was for both designations and regarding the GE27 request, felt the course was weak on the experiential side while having some civic interactions. Bounouader felt the department had attempted to do some benchmarking based on the rationale provided. Rivadeneyra felt the civic engagement component was evident and embedded with the course but thought there needed to be additional information/explanation regarding experiential learning components. There was also concern that as students could select which assignments to complete, it would be possible to bypass certain experiential learning components all together. Council members agreed with this assessment.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve SOC 250 for the GE14 SS designation but to send it back for revision for GE27 ELCE designation for a better clarification of experiential learning in the assignments, experiences, and course requirements for the designation in the anchor syllabus. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

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

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

The proposal was submitted by Natalie Schaad, Assistant to the Department Chairperson, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Ferrence noted the proposal was similar to the previous proposal. Hurd responded that the course focused on case studies and experiential learning. Clemmons added the course differed from SOC 250 in that the assignments were required as opposed to students choosing which ones to complete which guaranteed certain experiences/objectives would be met.

Wesselink made a motion to approve SOC 251 for the GE14 SS designation and the GE27 ELCE designation. Seconded by Wesselink.

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

13. LAL 250 Border Narratives (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Alejandro Enriquez, Associate Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Upon review, the Council felt the course clearly met the EHC designation requirements.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve LAL 250 for the GE27 EHC designation. Seconded by Krcmarik.

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

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

- Proposed for GE27 – CI designation

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

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

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

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

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

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

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

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

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

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

18. MUS 285 University Choir (existing course)

- Proposed for GE27 – CA designation

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

19. ART 216 Graphic Design History (existing course proposal)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Katie Krcmarik, Assistant Professor, Wonsook Kim School of Art, and Design.

Upon review, the Council felt the course clearly met the EHC designation requirements.

Clemmons made a motion to approve ART 216 for the GE27 EHC designation. Seconded by Wang.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

20. GEO 100 Introduction to Environmental Systems (existing course proposal)

- Proposed for GE14 – NS designation
- Proposed for GE27 – SL designation

21. GEO 205 Environment, Resources, and Sustainability (existing course proposal)

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

22. MUS 158 Hip-Hop: Culture, History, and Practice (existing course proposal)

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

23. SOC 141 The Social Fabric (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

24. SOC 230 Disaster: Risk, Response, and Recovery Through a Sociological Lens (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE27 – ELCE designation

25. POL 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics (existing course proposal)

- Proposed for GE27 – EHC designation

26. MUS 241 Text, Music, and Meaning (new course proposal)

- Proposed for GE14 – LH designation
- Proposed for GE27 – IFW designation

Action items 20-26 were tabled to fall 2026 due to time constraints.

Information Items:

27. Expedited Courses Approved for GE27: 4/24/26-4/30/26

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

- ART 155 Survey of Art I – approved for Creative Arts designation
- PHY 105 Fundamentals of Physics – approved for Scientific Literacy designation

Aitken made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Clemmons.

Meeting adjourned: 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons