

Council on General Education Minutes

August 24, 2021

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

Presiding: Amy Hurd

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Tony Marinello, Yvette Pigman*, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

*Pigman will not be officially seated until after August 25th Faculty Caucus meeting and does not count toward quorum

Guests:

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

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

1. Introductions

Introductions were made.

2. Overview of the Council

Hurd explained to new members that the Council is an external committee of the Academic Senate and that there are three committees on campus that review curricular issues. The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (UCC) which reviews undergraduate courses/programs; the Graduate Curriculum Committee (GCC) which reviews graduate courses/programs; and the Council on General Education (CGE) which reviews requests involving General Education designations to new and existing courses, as well as all IDS courses and minors. Hurd explained new programs approved by CGE go to the UCC for further review while new courses are then sent to her for approval. She reminded members that courses involving the AMALI graduation requirement were reviewed by AMALI faculty and would not fall under the Council's purview.

Hurd also reminded members that meetings are held as needed every other Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. throughout fall and spring. Members will receive meeting packets from Simmons typically the Friday prior to a scheduled meeting that will contain all meeting documents. However, members can also access documents through the Curriculum Forms website. Hurd also suggested members use Course Finder as research tool as it has now been integrated with the online catalog.

When reviewing course and program proposals, Hurd reminded Council members to verify that the proposed category is a good fit; the proposal itself is clear, consistent, and makes sense; and that, if required, all letters of support have been provided. She also noted that the Council must be careful when reviewing proposals that it cannot dictate what should/should not be taught and that the expertise must be left with the faculty.

Aiello informed Council members the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) is a state-wide program that has been in existence since 1998 and consists of 110 public and private institutions. IAI provides a General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package that is made up of between 37-41 hours for transfer students. Course requirements are as follows:

- 3 courses in Communication

- 1 course in Mathematics. Those students pursuing an Associates in Science degree may take an additional math course.
- 2 courses in Physical and Life Sciences. One course from each area and at least one must contain a lab.
- 3 courses in Humanities and Fine Arts. At least one course in each area is required.
- 3 courses in Social and Behavioral Science. Coursework in at least two different disciplines is required.

Aiello informed the Council that by law, all public institutions must participate and offer a full general education package for transfer students. Also, by law, if a transfer student successfully completes the GECC, the new institution cannot require the student to complete any additional general education requirements in order to graduate.

Ferrence asked if there were two different panels for Physical and Life Sciences. Aiello confirmed there were two different panels as one course must have a lab component. Aiello added a new panel for Teacher Education is being created and that there was a meeting in Springfield tomorrow to discuss what that panel would look like.

Hurd noted that if a student takes one course at a community college prior to enrolling at Illinois State, they are then assigned to IAI. However, the University will switch students to the General Education program if it is in students' best interest.

3. Election of Chair

Tabled to next meeting due to lack of quorum.

4. Approval of April 20, 2021 Minutes

Tabled to next meeting due to lack of quorum.

5. IDS 99A01 Identity in Residence Hall Communities (new course)

The course was proposed by Brian Johnston, Area Coordinator, University Housing Services.

Hurd explained this was a unique course in that it was proposed for 0 credit hours and is required due to a legal concern. The course will serve as a placeholder and will be required for all students who are Resident Assistants (RA) in University Housing. RAs are considered students and not employees, and as such, must be registered for coursework that begins prior to the semester starting in order to begin working prior to the first day of classes.

Rivadeneyra asked if there was a liability issue with having students work in the residence halls prior to classes starting. Hurd confirmed there was a liability issue and that RAs would be required to take the course in both fall and spring. The spring session would be more of a professional practice experience for returning RAs. If RAs were not enrolled in coursework, the University would then need to pay them on an hourly basis prior to classes beginning. Marinello confirmed having the same issue with students participating in summer camps in that those students must be paid hourly for their training.

Aitken asked if the course was different than IDS 89A01 as it has the same course description. Hurd believed IDS 89A01 would be the first course a new RA would enroll in and returning/continuing RAs would enroll in IDS 99A01. Aiello asked why Housing did not just make 89A01 repeatable instead of having an additional course. Aitken explained similar to MUS 110, it would depend on if the content

being offered for the course is different. Ferrence asked if a student became an RA in the spring, if they then would need to take IDS 89A01 and wondered how students would be made aware of the course. Rivadeneyra noted the students could look on Course Finder under IDS to find either course.

Hurd noted IDS 89A01 was approved by the Council last year. She will contact Housing for additional information regarding the Council's questions.

Tabled to next meeting due to lack of quorum.

6. KNR 175 Leisure's Role on Individuals and Society (existing course proposed for ICL)

Course was proposed by Dr. Michael Mulvaney, Professor, School of Kinesiology and Recreation.

Hurd informed Council members the course has been on the books for quite some time but had not been offered in a while. The course is not a requirement for majors as they take KNR 170 instead. Wood asked if the change was being proposed because the school had reconfigured the course or if they just wanted to have a General Education course in this category. Hurd responded the school had discussed what options it had in regard to courses that may fit into General Education. This course was brought up in those discussions as one that could fulfill the ICL requirement. Hurd noted the ICL category is short in available seats and new classes that fulfill the designation would be welcome. Aitken added the category was dominated by a handful of classes and lacked variety.

Rivadeneyra felt that she had difficulty seeing how this course connected to the ICL designation. While noting the description mentioned impacting civil life, political, and social interactions, she felt that the proposal was a bit of a stretch in regard to meeting ICL designation requirements. Wood reminded the Council it had rejected a course proposal from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology last spring for the same designation and wondered how this course compared to it.

Worland thought that Mulvaney provided a specific and incredible justification and thought if he was the one who taught the course as outlined in the proposal, it would meet the designation requirement. However, Worland had concerns if other instructors would focus enough on certain themes to justify the designation. He agreed with Rivadeneyra that the ICL category seemed to be a bit of a stretch and was not sure what was proposed was what he thought of when thinking about the institution of leisure.

Antink Meyer thought that while she did not have a background in General Education, looking at the first objective, she felt the course fit with the ICL learning outcomes. Wood responded that in the interest of consistency, she would like to review the minutes from last year's discussion regarding the Sociology proposal to refresh her memory. Rivadeneyra added it was somewhat difficult to distinguish between the different General Education designations as learning objectives are the same for all of them.

Hurd explained the course explores the role leisure plays in society and in the community. It will talk about recreation in society at both the formal and informal level and will take a multitude of perspectives regarding the human impact of leisure. Wood asked if the civic part of the course was focused more on the local level. Hurd responded it addressed civics at the local as well as state and federal levels. Rivadeneyra responded that was not clearly expressed in the submitted proposal. Ferrence struggled with the civic aspects of the course as engaging in one's community does not necessarily have anything to do with government or government relations. If the definition of civic is defined by including the government aspect, he felt the course did not meet that requirement. Wood

pointed out that the civic component was defined in the provided definition and she was good with how it was defined. Ferrence agreed it may just be a wordsmithing issue.

Hurd reminded Council members that the Council could not reject a proposal just because it rejected another one last year. She felt the course was a good fit for the ICL designation. Worland thought based on the description, the course may be a better fit for the UST designation. He added he would like to see more of the potential readings to see if there was a stronger connection to the ICL designation requirements. Rivadeneyra thought Council members were possibly getting tripped up on the political component which is why it is difficult for most classes to fulfill the ICL designation requirement. Antink Meyer asked if there could be a more explicit description provided of course readings and activities.

Due to time constraints, further discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons