

Council on General Education Minutes

September 3, 2024

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Malinda Aiello, Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer (arrived after Action Item 2), Emily Baldoni, Gregory Braswell, Ellis Chefor, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Brian Rejack, and Rocio Rivadeneyra

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Action Items:

1. African American Studies Minor (IDS minor program revision)

The proposal was submitted by Ron Gifford, Director of Academic Programs, Department of History.

Ferrence noted the proposal had been discussed at the previous meeting and asked Hurd to provide a recap as he was unable to attend that meeting. Hurd reminded Council members the concerns the Council had from its previous discussion included moving ENG 165 from a required course to an elective and if the Department of English had been notified about this proposed change. Following the previous meeting, Hurd contacted minor directors Drs. Brea Banks and Toure Reed for additional information.

Banks responded that the decision to move ENG 165 to an elective was made given the variability in who teaches the course which has led to variability in how the course is taught in each semester. Banks added that this change had been made after having discussions and the approval from the Department of English and apologized for not including that documentation within the proposal.

A motion was made by Rivadeneyra to approve the program revision. Seconded by Clemmons.

Nine in favor, none opposed, one abstained.

The motion carried.

2. The Studies of Global Asia Minor (New IDS minor program)

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Nobuko Adachi, Professor, Department of Sociology & Anthropology.

Ferrence noted the proposal had been discussed at the previous meeting and asked Hurd to provide a recap as he was unable to attend that meeting. Hurd reminded Council members the concerns the Council had from its previous discussion included FCS 392 not being included as a course in the course list for the proposal even though there was a letter of support for the course; the typo of JPN 121 instead of JPN 112 in the course proposal; and the maximum number of hours from any one department being set at six hours as this will limit the number of language courses students can take to one as those courses are worth four credit hours.

Hurd contacted Adachi regarding the Council's concerns. Adachi and Family & Consumer Science chairperson Dr. Marla Reese-Weber explained to Hurd that FCS 392 is currently a temporary course and is in the process of being submitted as a permanent course this fall. Once the course is approved. Adachi

plans to update the proposal to add the course. Hurd confirmed that this was the standard process in these situations.

Adachi thanked the Council for pointing out the issue concerning the six-hour maximum and how it would impact students who wished to take two language courses. The proposal was revised to change the maximum number of hours taken in one department to eight credit hours. In addition, JPN 121 was changed by the Registrar's Office to be JPN 112 at Adachi's request.

A motion was made by Braswell to approve the new minor. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

3. IDS 387 Capstone Project in Interdisciplinary Studies (New IDS course)

The proposal was submitted by Hurd as chair of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Hurd explained there has been an increase in IDS majors. Currently, these students only have the option of completing an internship as the program does not have a capstone course. However, not all students' curriculums in this major lend themselves to completing an internship which is the reason for this proposal. Hurd explained the course is currently being offered this fall as a temporary course with the intent to make it permanent. She added the syllabus is purposefully vague as capstone projects and project requirements are specific to each student.

Ferrence asked if any thought had been given to creating an undergraduate thesis option instead but after reflection thought the capstone project may be a better option. Hurd agreed a thesis could be an option but that the students in this IDS major typically do not have enough substantive time in a singular department that would lend itself to the thesis option. Rivadeneyra asked how many students were currently in the major. Hurd responded the major had around 100 students. Rivadeneyra asked if these students were all on one track or if they were all over the board. Hurd responded they tended to be all over the board.

A motion was made by Rivadeneyra to approve IDS 387 as a new IDS course. Seconded by Braswell.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

4. Data Science Exemption Request

The exemption request for the SCMT designation was submitted by Hurd as chair of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Ferrence believed a large percentage of programs/majors on campus had a General Education exemption request by virtue of disciplinary course requirements. Hurd confirmed that all but eight programs on campus offer some type of exemption. Ferrence noted Data Science had requested an exemption to the SCMT requirement and added that based on program requirements, students will be required to take way more coursework in that area than the category requires. Aitken agreed that the

request seemed to be in line with the spirit of the exemption and added half of the curriculum was based in SCMT coursework.

Rejack asked why the exemption was requested for SCMT rather than the QR designation. Hurd responded students in the program are required to take MAT 146 which already fulfills the QR requirement.

A motion was made by Aitken to approve the SCMT designation exemption request for Data Science. Seconded by Chefor.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

5. College of Engineering Exemption Request

The exemption request for the SCMT designation was submitted by Dr. Matthew Aldeman, Associate Dean, College of Engineering.

Ferrence noted the request was similar to the Data Science request as by virtue of the curriculum, students would fulfill the spirit of the designation by the courses required by the program. Aitken agreed the request fell in line with other exemption requests.

A motion was made by Aiello to approve the SCMT designation exemption request for the College of Engineering. Seconded by Antink Meyer.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Discussion/Information Items:

6. African American Studies Minor

Ferrence expressed concern that as part of the proposal's rationale, it was noted the proposal said, "President Tarhule suggested reducing the minor to 15 hours, but university policy does not allow minors to have fewer than 18 hours." Ferrence believed the optics were poor and asked if the statement should be removed from the proposal or if the President should be educated on the policy. Hurd thought it had more to do with the President not being aware of the current policy.

7. Curriculum Software

Hurd informed the Council the curriculum software proposal had been turned over to Kevin Hand in the Office of Technology Solutions to help move it through the purchasing process.

8. Curriculum Workshops

Hurd informed the Council the Registrar's Office will be holding curriculum workshops on September 12 and September 18 to walk people through the curriculum process.

9. General Education Forum

Hurd informed the Council Provost Fellows Drs. Lisa Tranel and Jennifer Howell, in conjunction with University Assessment, were planning a General Education Forum to be held on September 20.

10. Data Science Update

Hurd informed the Council applications were open for fall 2025 for the Data Science major. President Tarhule has a goal of having 50 students in the major for fall 2025. Work continues on a web presence for the major as well as advising logistics.

11. General Education Revision Update

The Academic Senate has sent out a campus-wide survey to collect opinions on the General Education revision proposal. Task force chairs Drs. Horvath and Simonds will present to the Academic Senate later this month.

A motion was made by Chefor to adjourn. Seconded by Rejack.

Meeting adjourned: 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons