

Council on General Education Minutes
September 8, 2020
10-11:00 a.m., Zoom Meeting

Presiding: Amy Hurd

Present: Brian Aitken, Rebekka Darner, Katie Fisher, Amy Hurd, Stella Liao, Sally Parry, Carla Pohl, Liz Sattler, Gabby Thompson, Georgia Tsouvala, Tina Williams, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

Guests:
Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

Hurd called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Action Items:

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.

Aiello reminded Council members to be aware that general education looks different to transfer students and changes to Illinois State's General Education program impacts this group differently than native students. Aiello reviews new courses that are approved to determine if they would be a good fit for the IAI program. If so, Aiello works with Parry to have courses reviewed/approved by IAI faculty panels. She added, IAI is not limited to just General Education as the program has major panels that provide recommendations as well.

3. Election of Chair

Hurd opened the floor for nominations. Darner nominated Worland to serve as chair. Aitken seconded.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, one abstained. The motion passed.

Worland took over the meeting.

4. Approval of January 28, 2020 Minutes

Worland asked if there were any corrections to the January 28, 2020 minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

5. Approval of February 25, 2020 Minutes

Worland asked if there were any corrections to the February 25, 2020 minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

6. Approval of April 21, 2020 Minutes

Worland asked if there were any corrections to the April 21, 2020 minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

7. PHY 208 Astronomy and Space Science (Course Revision)

The course revision was proposed by Dr. David Marx, Associate Professor, Department of Physics.

Worland informed Council members the only revision seemed to be a change from an incorrect label of SCMT to SMT. He noted that all other documents provided seemed to remain the same. Hurd added the revision was being requested to allow the course to count for both the SMT designation, as well as count toward the additional BS-SMT course requirement for those students completing a BS degree.

Parry thought it made perfect sense to allow the course to count toward both requirements. Aitken asked if the course would still retain its GE-14 SMT designation to which Hurd verified it would. She

added there was an issue with Course Finder not having the course attributes tagged correctly and that the issue is being looked at by Registrar staff.

The question was called. Parry made a motion was made to accept the course revision to allow PHY 208 to count toward the BS-SMT course requirement. Pohl seconded.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, one abstained. The motion passed.

Information Items:

8. General Education Review

Hurd updated the Council regarding the status of the General Education review. The review process began last fall with a majority of work, including data collection and focus groups, held in spring. Unfortunately, with COVID-19, work was halted. Hurd will meet with co-chairs, Drs. Jennifer Friberg and Erin Mikulec later this week to discuss moving forward this year. Hurd will keep the Council updated.

9. Global Studies Minor Update

Last spring, the Council reviewed a proposal to revise the Global Studies (International Studies) Minor. Hurd was to work with its proposer, Dr. Michaelene Cox, Associate Professor, Department of Politics and Government. Due to COVID-19, Hurd was not able to reach out to Cox over the summer and will follow-up with her this fall.

10. UCC Representative to the Council

Hurd informed the Council that Dr. Mary Elaine Califf, Associate Professor, School of Information Technology, had been appointed as the UCC representative to the Council. Simmons will contact Califf and send her meeting information.

Darner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sattler seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons