

Council on General Education Minutes

September 15, 2026

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

Presiding: Katie Krcmarik

Present: Brian Aitken, Marko Dumančić, Kristina Falbe, Gregory Ferrence, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Cara Rabe-Hemp, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Jessica Sullivan, and Sally Xie

Absent: Dan Ispas, Malinda Aiello (ex-officio, non-voting), and Soemer Simmons

Krcmarik called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Action Items:

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

- Proposed for GE14 – LH designation
- Proposed for GE28 – IFW designation
- Reviewers: Murphy and Rivadeneyra

Murphy noted she had no objections to the proposal.

Rivadeneyra noted that the course was designed from the outset to allow for interdisciplinary views of writing, teaching writing through the text itself, and felt it was compelling that the proposal showed evidence of both writing and revision. Murphy added that the supplemental document was helpful in articulating how the assignments related to the course objectives and noted the course required five writing assignments.

Rejack noted the proposal looked solid and that the rationale showed the proposer clearly understood the category.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve MUS 241 for the GE14 LH designation and the GE28 IFW designation. Seconded by Murphy.

Ten in favor, none opposed, one abstained (Aitken, who arrived mid-discussion).

The motion carried.

2. GEO 235 Regional Topics (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
- Reviewers: Falbe and Ferrence

Falbe noted that GEO 235 is the base course, with A01, A02, and A04 representing different regional focuses. She noted the proposals used consistent learning outcomes across all syllabi and included additional documentation on outcomes alignment, making the course a strong contender for the Examining the Human Condition designation.

Ferrence agreed the alignments were strong and noted each of the decimalized courses showed clearly, and creatively, how assignments aligned with the outcomes. He commended the proposals and encouraged the Council to look at what the courses are doing rather than relying solely on historical precedent and category and requested that the grid document and alignment materials be uploaded.

Rivadeneyra asked whether the courses matched a humanistic angle versus a social science one. Rejack responded that there was a danger of disciplinary elision or creep and said he was not fully convinced the courses were a definitive match, though he noted the category descriptions were written broadly enough that the courses could make a passable argument. He suggested the underlying issue may be that the categories themselves are too broadly written.

Murphy noted that geography can focus on both the social sciences and the humanities.

Falbe maintained that the assignments and their stated purpose supported the humanistic case.

Falbe made a motion to approve GEO 235, GEO 235A01, GEO 235A02, and GEO 235A04 for the GE28 EHC designation. Seconded by Ferrence.

Eight in favor (Rabe-Hemp, Ferrence, Falbe, Aitken, Murphy, Xie, Krcmarik, and Dumančić), none opposed, two abstained (Rivadeneyra and Rejack).

The motion carried.

3. [GEO 235A01 Regional Topics: Geography of Sub-Saharan Africa \(existing course\)](#)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
- Reviewers: Falbe and Ferrence

Considered together with GEO 235 under Item 2 above; approved by the same motion.

4. [GEO 235A02 Regional Topics: Geography of Latin America \(existing course\)](#)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
- Reviewers: Falbe and Ferrence

Considered together with GEO 235 under Item 2 above; approved by the same motion.

5. [GEO 235A04 Regional Topics: Geography of the Middle East and North Africa \(existing course\)](#)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
- Reviewers: Falbe and Ferrence

Considered together with GEO 235 under Item 2 above; approved by the same motion.

6. [GEO 135 World Geography \(existing course\)](#)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
- Reviewers: Krcmarik and Xie

Xie noted the course seeks to explore the human condition and felt it was ready for approval based on the strength of the submitted information. Krcmarik concurred.

Ferrence and Aitken noted the course may raise an IAI miscategorization issue, as it is changing from a social science to a humanistic/cultural geography area. Dumančić agreed to email IAI to confirm whether the change was intentional, so the course does not lose its IAI status.

Aitken made a motion to approve GEO 135 for the GE28 EHC designation, pending confirmation from IAI regarding the move to humanities. Seconded by Rabe-Hemp.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

7. [ENG 182 Public Rhetorics \(existing course\)](#)

- Proposed for GE14 – HUM designation
- Proposed for GE28 – IS designation
- Reviewers: Sullivan and Aitken

Aitken noted the course is the newly titled GE28 version of ENG/COM 183, which is being deleted because it will no longer be cross-listed. He said it was not a new course in terms of curriculum, just in number, with slight updates to align with the GE28 Individuals and Society requirement. He felt there was not much substance in the proposal, that the supporting documents were unclear regarding readings and assignment specificity, and that the materials were broad and bordered on vague. He added the course description was not student-friendly, that the word “rhetoric” was unclear to students, and that the identity of the course and the motivation for this category remained unclear.

Rivadeneyra noted there were bones for the ELCE category, and Rejack agreed, noting that since civics is already part of the course, experiential learning could potentially be added. Krcmarik noted that ELCE seemed a good fit given how closely politics and rhetoric are connected.

Falbe noted that the “activities” listed were not necessarily assessable.

Rejack noted there was no description of how the course matched the category, or why it was moving from humanities to Individuals and Society, and that the reasoning remained unclear.

Aitken made a motion to return ENG 182 to the proposer to reevaluate the category fit as well as the alignment of outcomes and assignments. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

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

- Proposed for GE28 – ELCE designation
- Reviewers: Rabe-Hemp and Rejack

Rabe-Hemp described the course as fun, with excellent and thoughtful assignments.

Rivadeneyra asked about the civic engagement component. Rejack responded that the course included a long list of assignments connected to the category, ranging from volunteering to a paper on policy change implementation and well-being in the workplace. He noted the course overview shows how social science informs civic context and connects students to community and the social world.

Rabe-Hemp made a motion to approve SOC 250 for the GE28 ELCE designation. Seconded by Murphy.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

9. POL 101 Citizens and Governance (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – ELCE designation
- Reviewers: Krcmarik and Xie

10. ECO 234 Writing in the Age of AI: Society, Work, and the Economy (new course)

- Proposed for GE28 – AWI designation
- Reviewers: Murphy and Rivadeneyra

11. [ANT 385 Media and Visual Anthropology \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – CA designation
 - Reviewers: Sullivan and Aitken
12. [GEO 138 Maps, Apps, and the Science of Where \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – STEM designation
 - Reviewers: Rabe-Hemp and Rejack
13. [GEO 104 Geographies of Sustainability: Think Global, Live Local \(new course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE14 – NS designation
 - Proposed for GE28 – STEM designation
14. [SWK 170 Introduction to Social Work](#)
 - Proposed for GE14 – SS designation
 - Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
15. [MUS 210 The Mathematics of Music: Quantitative Reasoning Through Sound \(new course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – QL designation
16. [GEO 107 Natural Hazards \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – STEM designation
17. [WGS 120 Gender, Sex, and Power \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – ELCE designation
18. [ANT 362 Plagues, Pandemics, and People \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – SL designation
19. [ANT 197 Lost Continents and Alien Pyramids \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – SL designation
20. [POL 161 Introduction to Political Theory \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – IFW designation
21. [SOC 123 Human Sexuality \(existing course\)](#)
22. [PSY 123 Human Sexuality \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
23. [ANT 176 Culture, Power, and Civic Life \(existing course\)](#)
 - Proposed for GE28 – ELCE designation

Action items 9-23 were administratively tabled due to time constraints.

Information Items:

24. Expedited Courses Approved for GE28: 9/4/2026-9/10/2026

<https://gened.illinoisstate.edu/gened28/implementation-plan/>

No expedited courses were approved during this time frame.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marko Dumančić