

Council on General Education Minutes

October 1, 2024

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

Presiding: Amy Hurd

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Ellis Chefor, Zakkary Clark, Linda Clemmons, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Robbie Shorter, and Haiyan Xie

Hurd called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. in chairperson Ferrence's absence.

Action Items:

1. Introductions

Introductions were made.

2. Urban Studies Minor (IDS minor program revision)

The revision was proposed by Dr. Eric Peterson, Chair, Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment.

Aitken noted the proposal included a change in electives and that several courses were added to the available elective list. Hurd confirmed ANT 375, ECO 350 and SOC 350 were proposed to be removed with courses in Economics, Criminal Justice Sciences, Geography/Geology, and History to be added. Aitken asked how many students were enrolled in the minor. Hurd responded as of fall census, there were thirteen students currently in the minor with an average of seven students over the past several years.

Rejack thought the proposed changes were straight forward and Aitken agreed the changes made sense. Hurd added all the departments impacted by the proposed changes had signed off on the proposal.

A motion was made by Aitken to approve the program revision. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

3. AGR 120 Introductory Horticulture (existing course proposed for SCMT designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Aslihan Spaulding, former interim chair, Department of Agriculture.

Hurd informed the Council the proposal was for an existing course. Aitken noted the file title on the submitted syllabus was for McHenry County College. Hurd and Rivadeneyra believed this was just in error as the actual syllabus was for the Illinois State course.

Antink Meyer asked for clarification if a prerequisite course was needed for a SCMT course. Aitken responded that in the past, that used to be the case but that the Council had moved away from that practice as it was a holdover from the previous General Education program that consisted of an inner/middle/outer core. He added the Council had recently approved HSC 209 for the SCMT

designation which also has no prerequisites. Shorter thought the course would be interesting for students to take and thought the course seemed to meet the spirit of the designation's requirements.

Rivadeneira asked if there was a potential error on the General Education website regarding the prerequisite requirement. Hurd responded that it was correct and that the additional course was a requirement for the BS-SMT graduation requirement which is different than the SCMT General Education requirement.

A motion was made by Shorter to approve AGR 120 for the SCMT designation. Seconded by Chefor.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Following the vote, Aitken asked if the process of allowing courses approved would still be applied retroactively to students' records. He noted that for several IDEAS courses, it seemed approved courses were not being retroactively applied with application being catalog bound. Hurd will follow-up with the Registrar.

Discussion Items/Updates:

4. Curriculum Software Update

Hurd informed the Council that work was tentatively scheduled to begin on October 21st but there was currently not a signed contract. She is following up with Purchasing on the contract status.

5. General Education Revision Update

Hurd informed the Council that the General Education Revision proposal was currently going through the Academic Senate and was discussed last Wednesday by the Academic Affairs Committee of the Senate. Committee Chair Dimitrios Nikolaou asked Hurd to provide a mapping of current courses to the proposed new designations. Aitken asked if the request was to provide just a sample as one of the goals of the new program was to encourage the development of new courses. Hurd was not sure of the scope of the Committee's request at this time.

Hurd added there have been concerns raised regarding the implementation that would be needed for the new program. She has pulled together a group to brainstorm what would need to be done to implement from a systems perspective. Hurd added that it will take quite a bit of work to implement a new program and that it would take approximately 3-4 years to fully implement.

Murphy asked if the new curriculum software would help with the curriculum process or if it was more for form routing purposes. Hurd responded yes to both. The new software would replace the current homegrown curriculum forms system and would automatically generate copy for the catalog which is now a manual process. Murphy asked if it would assist with registration as well. Hurd responded a separate software would be needed. There is currently a group looking at a separate software solution for registration and degree audit but there isn't a timeline available for that project.

Rivadeneira asked about the process if the Academic Senate made changes to the revision proposal and wondered if it would come back to the Council. Hurd was not sure if it would come back to the Council or if it would be sent back to the task force. She will follow up with Academic Senate Chair Martha Horst.

A motion was made by Aitken to adjourn. Seconded by Braswell.

Meeting adjourned: 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons