

Council on General Education Minutes

October 4, 2022

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

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Joseph Goodman, Amy Hurd, Yvette Pigman, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Chris Worland, and Haiyan Xie

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approval of September 20, 2022 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were corrections to the minutes as submitted. He suggested an edit to the minutes. No other edits were suggested. The minutes were accepted with the inclusion of Ferrence's edit.

2. European Studies Major (proposed for program deletion)

The proposal was submitted by Ronald Gifford, Assistant Chair, Department of History.

Ferrence told Council members there was also an active European Studies minor as well. The major had been created with the expectation of heavy enrollment but that did not occur. In addition, most of the faculty responsible for the creation and oversight of the major have either retired or left the University. Ferrence noted there are currently three students in the major and all of them have different primary majors in addition to the European Studies major, so the deletion of the program would not impact their time to graduation. If approved for deletion, advisors would contact those students to discuss teach out plans and investigate the possibility of the students acquiring the minor instead. Ferrence added there were no funding impacts associated with the deletion of the program and there would be no issues regarding course offerings as the courses in the program are already offered for other programs.

Hurd explained the major was created in fall 2018. The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) requires a report regarding the status of the major, including enrollment, after three years. Rather than waiting for IBHE to discontinue the program, it was decided to request the program deletion due to being undersubscribed. While it was not included in the actual proposal, Hurd explained IBHE requires a teach out plan to be created so the students in the program will not be adversely affected. Ferrence asked if the proposal needed to be modified to include the teach out plan. Hurd responded it was not relevant in this case and that Dr. Cooper Cutting was aware/responsible for the follow-up.

Worland asked for verification that the European Studies minor would still be active. Rivadeneyra confirmed it would still be an active IDS minor. Hurd confirmed as well that there would be no impact on the minor and added it may pick up a few students from the major program deletion. Worland asked if additional IDS faculty would be needed to teach courses. Rivadeneyra responded the courses would still be taught by the individual departments so no additional faculty would be needed.

Braswell made a motion to approve the deletion of the European Studies major. Seconded by Antink Meyer.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

3. IDS 133A29 Study Abroad: Prague, Czech Republic (proposed as new IDS Course)

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Lauren Lowell, Associate Professor, School of Theatre and Dance (THD).

Ferrence explained the course was an IDS study abroad that would be three weeks in duration and be led through THD. The course would be for three credit hours and had four lecture and fifteen lab contact hours per week, which is the typical range. The course is designed so that the students would spend half the course time engaged in course-specific activities and what Ferrence hoped was structured free time. Ferrence noted the course had previously been offered under a course number associated with THD but that the school wanted to now offer the course as an IDS course to appeal to a larger group of students.

Ferrence pointed out on the course proposal in Section 5, questions 3 and 4, information was incorrectly submitted stating the course had never been offered before. In addition, the course was submitted for consideration for the AMALI designation but does not meet those requirements. Hurd said she would contact the proposer and take care of the AMALI request. Clemmons asked if a course syllabus was required to be submitted for review and questioned why there was no General Education designation supporting documentation submitted as well. It was pointed out that the course was not submitted to be considered for any General Education designation which is why additional supporting documentation was not submitted.

Rivadeneyra thought it was still a requirement for a syllabus to be submitted. Hurd was unsure of why the Council began requiring a syllabus as the information, at least in this instance, was listed in the course proposal. Ferrence thought the practice may be a carryover from when the University did not use the current proposal system. Aitken noted based on the Council's past decisions, the best practice would be to ask for a course syllabus. In addition, he wondered why the course had not been proposed for a General Education designation as all other courses in IDS 133 count toward the Humanities General Education requirement. Council members agreed not having the designation had the potential to cause confusion for students.

Aitken made a motion to table the proposal for additional information and a course syllabus. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Hurd will contact THD.

Discussion Items:

4. IDEAS Curriculum Committee

Hurd is currently working on creating the bylaws for the IDEAS Curriculum Committee and noted the Council had not come to a decision on what the Committee representation should be. Council members had previously discussed having six faculty members with at least three colleges being represented.

Worland asked which three colleges would most likely be represented and noted the College of Education (COE) would most likely have the most representatives. Rivadeneyra responded the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) would most likely have representation as well as most of the courses with the IDEAS designation are taught by CAS departments. She added that she did not want representation limited too much. Ferrence thought that even if four representatives came from one college, there would be at least two representatives that could/would bring slightly different voices.

Rivadeneyra asked if this would be the Committee membership for this year. Hurd responded it would be going forward. Rivadeneyra asked if representatives would still be selected by the Council. Hurd responded she had not updated that part of the document yet, but representatives would be selected by the Faculty Caucus as this will be an external Academic Senate committee. Rivadeneyra asked if it would just be a slate the Caucus would just approve. Hurd did not know and asked if anyone remembered how current appointments were announced and selected. Ferrence said he would need to refer to his notes, but he believed it was closer to a pro forma vetting process. Caucus members were given nominees' vitas and given the opportunity to refuse a nominee. Hurd will contact Academic Senate chair Dr. Martha Horst to discuss.

Antink Meyer suggested wordsmithing the last bullet stating representatives must be teaching/having taught an IDEAS course. She thought this was too constrictive and language should be left more open ended. Rivadeneyra suggested editing it to read representatives should demonstrate a commitment to diversity/expertise. Council members discussed if having an even number of representatives would cause an issue in the case of a tie vote but determined it would not be a problem.

Hurd will edit the document and it will be brought before Council members for review at the next meeting.

5. General Education Survey Feedback

Worland asked if other Council members had issues accessing survey results using the Power BI link provided by University Assessment. It was determined that it may be a system access issue. Hurd will ask if University Assessment staff can attend a future meeting to discuss the survey and the results in greater detail with the Council.

Hurd made a motion to adjourn. Clemmons seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons