

Council on General Education Minutes

October 6, 2026

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

Presiding: Katie Krcmarik

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

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

Action Items:

1. Approval of September 29, 2026 Minutes

Ferrence made a motion to approve the September 29, 2026 minutes. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

2. IDS 121A19 Texts and Contexts: Literary Studies (inactivation of existing course)

Ferrence wondered whether the inactivation was a side effect of the budget model. Rivadeneyra noted that a college-level interdisciplinary course prefix exists that preserves interdisciplinarity at the college level.

Aitken made a motion to approve the inactivation of IDS 121A19. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, Kristina Falbe abstained.

The motion carried.

3. WGS 177 Queer Theatre (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – CA designation
- Reviewers: Rejack and Xie

Both reviewers submitted their reviews via email. WGS 177 was approved for the GE28 CA designation.

4. ENG 125 Literary Narrative (existing course)

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

The course qualified for the expedited process, but the reviewers forwarded it to the full Council for discussion.

Murphy noted that the syllabi were vague because multiple instructors teach the course. Ferrence felt the course merited discussion, as the assignments and course materials did not clearly articulate alignment with the designation, though he questioned whether further wordsmithing would be worthwhile. He thought the structure of the course would likely lend itself to the requested category but said a sample reading would help convey a sense of the course.

Falbe felt the Council could trust the instructors, especially since the current assignment list identified effective artifacts for assessment. Krcmarik asked whether the proposers might be setting themselves up for failure given the kinds of assessments noted in the alignment document. Ferrence asked whether notetaking would be assessed. Falbe responded that the annotated bibliography should be the only assignment used for assessment.

Ferrence made a motion to approve ENG 125 for the GE28 EHC designation. Seconded by Murphy.

Eleven in favor, one opposed (Aitken), none abstained.

The motion carried.

5. ENG 229 Introduction to Literary Genre (existing course)

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

The course qualified for the expedited process, but the reviewers forwarded it to the full Council for discussion.

Murphy noted that, as with ENG 125, multiple instructors teach the course, which contributed to vague syllabi. However, ENG 229 provided more information than ENG 125 and greater specificity in its course description and overview. Ferrence again observed that the assignments and course materials did not clearly articulate alignment with the designation, but felt the structure of the course would lend itself to the category and noted the proposal offered a more precise discussion of genre.

Murphy made a motion to approve ENG 229 for the GE28 EHC designation. Seconded by Ferrence.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

6. ANT 197 Lost Continents and Alien Pyramids (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – SL designation
- Reviewers: Krcmarik and Sullivan

Sullivan found the course activities interesting and clearly aligned to the course outcomes. She felt the course fit the category and met its outcomes. Krcmarik agreed with Sullivan's assessment.

Sullivan made a motion to approve ANT 197 for the GE28 SL designation. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

7. POL 161 Introduction to Political Theory (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – IFW designation
- Reviewers: Rabe-Hemp and Ferrence

Ferrence noted that the course's alignments with the IFW learning objectives ranged from vague to barely present. Only 30% of the final grade was based on writing, which he felt was problematic for a writing course. He did not think the course was authentically designed to help students become more effective writers and noted that a student could pass the course without passing the writing assignments.

Rejack asked whether another category, such as applied writing, might be a better fit. Rivadeneyra responded that regardless of category, the course would need a higher proportion of writing, as it read as a politics course with some writing rather than a writing course grounded in politics.

Ferrence made a motion to send POL 161 back for revision. Seconded by Rejack.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

8. SOC 123 Human Sexuality (existing course)

9. PSY 123 Human Sexuality (existing course)

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

Falbe felt that while the courses could fit the EHC designation, they appeared to fit the IS designation better. She noted the syllabus did not articulate the "Big Questions" central to the EHC designation. Learning outcomes 3.2 and 3.4 showed exposure to questions of identity, but there was no evidence that students would demonstrate that skill. She suggested the proposers either consider the IS designation or show more explicitly how the courses meet the EHC designation. Murphy agreed the courses could be approved but felt they fit the IS designation much more clearly.

Falbe made a motion to send SOC 123 and PSY 123 back for reconsideration. Seconded by Murphy.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

10. ANT 176 Culture, Power, and Civic Life (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – ELCE designation

- Reviewers: Falbe and Murphy

Murphy felt the course clearly did not meet the bar for the ELCE designation, as there was no experiential learning in the course as written. Falbe concurred, noting that the course touched on civic topics but the engagement was neither deep nor sustained, and the assignments and activities did not clearly demonstrate an experiential learning component. She added that the proposers could make the case for the designation, but the classroom activities and assessments would need to match the category.

Krcmarik suggested the IS designation might be a better fit. Aitken felt the connection to experiential learning was superficial and passive rather than direct and deep, particularly since tests were the main assignments.

Murphy made a motion to send ANT 176 back for revision. Seconded by Falbe.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

11. IT 215 Introduction to Applied Artificial Intelligence (existing course)

- Proposed for GE14 – SMT designation
- Proposed for GE28 – STEM designation

Rejack felt the STEM outcomes were captured in spirit and the course matched the intent of the category. His only question was whether the course included at least two disciplines or approaches. Rivadeneyra noted the course overview was stronger than the description and that the descriptor suggested the course was multidisciplinary. Aitken agreed that different STEM fields appeared to be involved. Rivadeneyra added that the course also referenced social impacts and broader conversations about the effects of technology.

Rejack made a motion to approve IT 215 for the GE14 SMT designation and the GE28 STEM designation. Seconded by Rivadeneyra.

Twelve in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Action items 12-16 were administratively tabled due to time constraints.

Rejack made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dumančić.

Meeting adjourned: 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marko Dumančić