Council on General Education Minutes
October 20, 2026
10:00-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Katie Krcmarik

Present: Sydney Buchelt, Marko Dumančić, Kristina Falbe, Gregory Ferrence, Dan Ispas, Katie Krcmarik, Julie Murphy, Cara Rabe-Hemp, Brian Rejack, Keyana Tounou, and Sally Xie

Krcmarik called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Action Items:

1. SOC 220 Societies: The Big Picture (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation
- Previous Reviewers: Sullivan and Ferrence

The proposal was submitted by Natalie Schaad, Assistant to the Department Chairperson, Department of Sociology & Anthropology.

Ferrence noted the anchor syllabus was missing now on the proposal. Simmons will check with the Registrar regarding the missing syllabus. Ferrence noted when the course was previously reviewed, there was concern regarding the GE28 EHC designation request as the course has a GE14 SS designation. Council members requested a better alignment as well as a rationale as to why the department wanted the course to fulfill the EHC designation instead of the GE28 IS designation. The department revised and provided the requested information.

Ferrence thought the department articulated their defense of the EHC designation over the IS designation rather nicely and felt they did a good job with the alignments as well. He felt the course met muster for the EHC designation. Rejack did not agree with the department's argument that the course would not belong as an IS designated course because it did not focus on the specific individual but rather society as a whole. He thought it felt a little ticky tacky to him as he felt the course fit the category name but did nothing to address the Humanities core. Dumančić and Ferrence agreed the definition/structure of the categories make it difficult to determine what the best fit is for those disciplines that can potentially cross lines depending on the course focus. They both thought, ultimately, it would have to be reviewed/verified as part of the assessment process if the course delivers on what it promises, and if not, have the designation removed. Krcmarik agreed and said that at some point, the Council had to trust the expert faculty in these areas.

A motion was made by Ferrence to approve SOC 220 for the GE28 EHC designation pending the addition of the anchor syllabus to the proposal. Seconded by Dumančić.

Ten in favor, one opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

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

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

The proposal was submitted by Brittney Vietti, Academic Advisor, Department of Politics and Government.

Krcmarik reminded Council members that the proposal had been previously reviewed by the Council and sent back for revision. The department previously submitted the proposal requesting the IFW designation. As part of the revision, the Council suggested the department review and request the AWI designation instead as the course seemed to lend itself more to applied writing. The department made the suggested revisions and re-submitted seeking the AWI designation.

Rabe-Hemp noted the department made all the revisions the Council had suggested upon its last review. Tounou had concerns about the course and the AWI designation as she had taken the course and felt there really was not much discussion regarding the readings in the course. She added a friend was currently taking the course, and the content and approach had not changed to reflect what was outlined on the anchor syllabus.

Ferrence thanked Tounou for her insight and noted it would be very important in the assessment process for the course to demonstrate evidence of applied writing if the designation were approved. Rejack noted due to the structure of the category, there is not a guideline for a specific amount or type of writing required for the designation. He added there seemed to be instruction about writing in the course and that at some point, we must trust our colleagues to do what they say they are going to do.

A motion was made by Rabe-Hemp to approve POL 161 for the GE28 AWI designation. Seconded by Ferrence.

Nine in favor, one opposed, one abstained.

The motion carried.

3. COM 160 Media and Society (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – IS designation

The proposal was submitted by Elizabeth Chupp, Academic Coordinator, School of Communication.

Dumančić felt that for the most part, the course used meaningful artifacts for assessment and did a generally ok job of aligning to the learning objectives. Ferrence agreed and felt the alignment showed an intersectionality of media and Artificial Intelligence (AI). He was comfortable with approving the IS designation for the course.

Rejack noted there was text added to the course policy section on the anchor syllabus. Previously, authors could not edit this section, and it only contained language from Student Access and Accommodation Services (SAAS). Rejack noted he was fine with the addition but just wanted to point it out as it came up in the college curriculum committee. Ferrence thought the language used was vague enough not to cause issues/concern.

A motion was made by Ferrence to accept COM 160 for the GE28 IS designation. Seconded by Dumančić.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

4. ANT 110 How to Be Human (new course)

- Proposed for GE28 – SL designation

The proposal was submitted by Natalie Schaad, Assistant to the Department Chairperson, Department of Sociology & Anthropology.

Falbe thought the table provided was really helpful, the alignments were done well, and the proposal had a thoughtful layout. Rejack asked what the scientists in the room thought about the proposal. Ferrence responded he was in favor and noted the course had content regarding the scientific method that none of the current science courses cover. Both he and Murphy felt the spirit of scientific literacy was addressed by the course.

A motion was made by Falbe to approve ANT 110 for the GE28 SL designation. Seconded by Buchelt.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

5. ENG 160 Introduction to Women's Writing (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Amy Robillard, Professor, Department of English.

Council members did not have additional discussion regarding the proposal and felt the course was appropriate for the EHC designation.

A motion was made by Rabe-Hemp to accept ENG 160 for the GE28 EHC designation. Seconded by Falbe.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

6. ENG 150 Explorations in World Literature (existing course)

- Proposed for GE28 – EHC designation

The proposal was submitted by Dr. Amy Robillard, Professor, Department of English.

While Council members felt the course description provided was poor and too brief, overall, they felt the course met the spirit of the EHC designation.

A motion was made by Rabe-Hemp to accept ENG 160 for the GE28 EHC designation. Seconded by Ferrence.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

The course was also submitted for consideration for the AMALI designation. Dumančić will verify the proposer meant to submit for the designation, and if so, will forward to the AMALI committee for review.

Discussion Items:

7. Assessment Update
Ferrence asked if would be useful to have Dr. Ryan Smith from University Assessment Services give an update to the Council regarding the implementation process for assessment of GE28. Dumančić responded he had met with Smith and Smith is currently working on a draft. He added that Smith is currently in the process of collecting artifacts for GE14 as assessment continues for that program as well. Rabe-Hemp informed Council members that Smith and others were also heavily involved in drafting the university's response to the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) as part of the accreditation process. She suggested it might be better to wait until that process was complete before inviting Smith for an update. The Council will revisit in spring.

8. Miscellaneous Updates
Ferrence asked if there was a rough estimate of the breakdown of seats and if there were any shortages across the new GE designations. Dumančić responded there were shortages in the ELCE designation as well as several of the writing designations. Fable asked how these shortages were being communicated to departments and asked if a message could be sent out relaying this information. Dumančić said he would be glad to send one out.

As the Council's queue has been cleared, Krcmarik informed members the next meeting scheduled for October 27 would be cancelled. Dumančić thanked Council members for their outstanding work this semester.

Information Items:

9. Expedited Courses Approved for GE28: 10/9/2026-10/15/2026

No expedited courses were approved during this time frame.

Rejack made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rabe-Hemp.

Meeting adjourned: 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons