

**Council on General Education Minutes**  
**October 22, 2019**  
**10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140**

**Presiding:** Rebekka Darner

**Present:** Brian Aitken, Rebekka Darner, Katie Fisher, Rachel Gramer, Amy Hurd, Amanda Klingler, Stella Liao, Lance Lippert (late arrival), Sally Parry, Carla Pohl, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Liz Sattler, and Georgia Tsouvala

**Guests:**

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative  
Dr. Tina Thompson, Associate Professor, Department of Management and Quantitative Methods  
Dr. Roberta Trites, Interim Chair, Department of Management and Quantitative Methods

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

**Action Items:**

**1. Approval of October 8, 2019 Minutes**

The question was called. Darner made a motion to accept the October 8, 2019 minutes. Parry seconded. Ten in favor, none opposed, two abstained. The minutes were accepted.

**2. DAN 152 Experiencing Dance (new course proposed for FA)**

The course was proposed by Dr. Darby Wilde, Associate Professor, School of Theatre and Dance.

Council members all agreed the course fulfilled the FA designation requirement. Parry added the course aligned well with IAI and had a clear connection to all of the other courses currently available for FA credit.

The question was called. Rivadeneyra made a motion to approve DAN 152 for the FA designation. Pohl seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Hurd will notify Wilde of the Council's decision.

**3. IDS 121A67 City as Text: Barcelona (new course proposed for LH)**

The course was proposed by Rivadeneyra.

Parry thought it was a wonderful course but noted that most study abroad courses are part of the IDS 133 series and count toward the Humanities requirement as opposed to Language in the Humanities. She acknowledged the larger issue stems from the umbrella course whose intent was to be writing intensive.

Rivadeneyra responded that this was the sixth course she had proposed as an IDS 121 course, all of which were similar in content. Aitken mentioned he did not remember reviewing these courses previously to which Hurd responded these courses were now all being submitted through the online proposal system and had not been in the past.

Rivadeneira informed the Council courses that had previously been approved for the LH designation included study in Peru, Germany, Italy, Mexico and Havana. The course would be comprised of all Honors students and uses *City as Text* as the model. Rivadeneira explained while the purpose of the course is not to teach writing to students in the traditional way, students are expected to do quite a bit of writing. She added that her understanding was that the purpose of the IDS 121 courses were not to teach composition, but rather, build on existing writing skills.

Gramer mentioned she had searched for the learning objectives for a better understanding of the type of content needed to qualify for a LH designation but could not find them online. From the information that was available, she noted there was no mention that in order to qualify for the LH designation, the course must include the teaching of writing. Gramer added if that was an intended requirement for the designation, then there needs to be specific language included within that designation description.

Darner asked if the intention when developing the LH designation was to focus on a specific type of writing and pointed out that writing in a Social Science course differs than the writing in a Humanities course. Parry responded that was not the intent behind the LH writing requirement. Gramer added that many of the proposed course assignments included essays and the type of general writing assignments that are currently being done in composition courses.

Parry noted given that the other courses following this format were already approved for the LH designation, it would not be appropriate to not approve this one as well. Hurd added IDS 121 has turned into a hodge podge of topics and may need to be looked at more closely going forward.

The question was called. Aitken made a motion to approve IDS 121A67 for the LH designation. Gramer seconded. Eleven in favor, none opposed, two abstained. The motion passed.

#### **4. HSC 206 Global Health (proposed for SMT)**

The course was proposed by Dr. Chris Grieshaber, Chair, Department of Health Sciences.

Darner reminded Council members that the course was previously submitted to the Council for consideration under the SS designation but was denied. At the time the course was reviewed, the Council suggested to Grieshaber that the course may be a better fit for the SMT designation.

Rivadeneira noted the proposal did not include supporting rationale for the SMT designation request. Hurd responded it may have been assumed the rationale was the Council's suggestion of the potential fit for the SMT category. Darner added the learning objectives on the course syllabus still contained reference to the SS designation and needed to be updated to the SMT designation. Gramer added that all of the requested rationale was submitted previously and noted there were no additional changes.

The question was called. Pohl made a motion to approve HSC 206 for the SMT designation pending the correction of the learning objectives to SMT from SS. Gramer seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Hurd will contact Grieshaber to make the correction.

## **Information/Discussion Items:**

### **5. MQM 120 Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in the Workplace Discussion**

This course had previously been submitted to the Council to consider for the ICL designation and was denied. Thompson and Trites asked to meet with the Council to discuss its suggestions to the department. Darner noted the Council had a difficult time in determining which category designation the course would best fit in.

Thompson told the Council when the course was first proposed, proposers did an initial review of all the designations and their respective requirements and thought the ICL designation would be the best as it specifically mentions business and how individual freedoms are addressed and interact within different disciplines. As this course has a legal environment slant while focusing on areas such as history, culture, and business, Thompson initially thought ICL would be the best fit given the published designation description as opposed to the intended designation description. Thompson added she had also looked at the UST designation but as a section of the course will be taught in Barbados, she did not feel this would be approved either.

Parry responded the Council felt the course would best fit in the SS category as it was broader in nature. When the ICL designation was originally created, it was utilized as one way a student could fulfill the mandatory Constitution requirement as the intent of the course was to focus on civil life in the United States. This requirement was removed around ten years ago and since then, the ICL category has broadened. Parry added that the SS category was also a broad category which over the past several years has more interdisciplinary interactions through various disciplines which is why the Council thought it may be a better fit for Thompson's course.

Rivadeneira questioned if whether or not the section of the course taught in Barbados could be counted for AMALI credit. Parry responded it could be done through the use of a sub waiver. Thompson asked if the Council was the committee that considered course proposals for AMALI credit. Hurd responded a committee of the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) reviewed AMALI proposals but that she approved sub waiver requests.

Thompson noted there were a large number of courses already in the SS category and asked if there would be a drawback to adding an additional course. Parry responded there was not an issue with adding an additional course and that if the course fit the category, the number of courses already existing in the category should be of no influence either way. Thompson then asked about what would happen if General Education changes occurred over the next several years. Rivadeneira responded that it was likely going forward there would be some type of SS requirement and she advised Thompson not to let the possibility of future revisions dictate her actions. Hurd suggested the course would be a good fit for the potential IDEAS requirement if the requirement is approved by the Academic Senate.

Thompson asked if it would be best to decimalize the course so that the section held in Barbados would be eligible for either the IDEAS or AMALI designation. Parry thought it would be best and added that all courses would be vetted again in terms of fit if/when a new General Education program is implemented. Trites also thought decimalizing the course was a good suggestion as it was likely the course would be offered every semester on campus but not as often in Barbados.

Gramer asked if Thompson had a better understanding of how she wanted to proceed with the proposal going forward to which Thompson replied she thought she would submit the proposal for the SS

designation as there would be more flexibility within that category. She will revise the proposal and notify Hurd when she has re-submitted it.

#### **6. General Education Proposal Process Discussion**

Hurd informed the Council that the General Education Review Committee has been established. The Executive Committee has around 27 representatives and still needs student representatives. There is also a need for people to serve on sub-committees so Hurd asked if Council members knew of anyone who would like to serve on a sub-committee, to let her or Simmons know. The first Executive Committee meeting will be on October 30. Jennifer Friberg, SOTL, and Erin Mikulec, College of Education, have agreed to co-chair the committee.

Hurd hopes the Committee will devise a plan yet this fall so that it can begin collecting data and information in the spring. Hurd anticipates it taking around two years before a proposal would go to the Provost for approval. Following that, the proposal would need to go to the Council, UCC, the Academic Senate and to the campus community for feedback. She added the last time it took around six years to implement a major overhaul of General Education.

At the last meeting, the Council questioned when it should stop considering new proposals given the potential for all General Education categories to be changed and/or removed entirely. Given the lengthy process, Hurd did not know when this should occur. All Council members agreed the current category learning objectives and requirements needed to be more clearly defined as to better assist faculty in making proposals and the Council in its review. Hurd added the best guidelines she had seen so far were written to assist Study Abroad advisors. Council members will review those guidelines at the next meeting.

Rivadeneyra made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pohl seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons