

Council on General Education Minutes
October 29, 2024
10:15-11:00 a.m., STV 401A

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Malinda Aiello, Gregory Braswell, Ellis Chefor, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, and Robbie Shorter

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Approval of August 20, 2024 Minutes

2. Approval of September 3, 2024 Minutes

3. Approval of October 1, 2024 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to any of the three sets of minutes as presented. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as presented.

4. CJS 105 Violence in America (new course proposed for the ICL designation)

The proposal was submitted by Jazmyn Thomas, Advisor, Department of Criminal Justice Sciences.

Ferrence noted the department provided a pretty straight forward documentation on how the course aligned with ICL designation requirements. Rivadeneyra thought the course may have more of a social sciences (SS) lens as opposed to an ICL one. Braswell agreed and thought the course could align to either the ICL or SS designation. Rejack asked if a course could count toward two designations. Hurd responded it could not.

Rivadeneyra noted that on both the supporting documentation and the proposal that both ICL and SS were mentioned. Ferrence asked if there was a rush on the proposal and wondered if the Council should send it back to the department for clarification. Hurd thought their preference would most likely be for the ICL designation as there are fewer courses in that category but thought the proposal should be sent back to the department for them to make the choice.

Rivadeneyra and Clemmons thought they could see aspects of both SS and ICL in the course. However, Clemmons thought there seemed to be more of a social issue focus. Rejack felt the course could count for either designation as well depending on how the department chose to position the course. He felt it could be more of an ICL course if the course were positioned to focus more on the existing policy piece but felt the department needed to be clearer if they wanted it to count for the ICL designation.

Rivadeneyra added that after reviewing the course description, it made it sound like more of an ICL course as opposed to the other information provided. Clemmons thought it seemed like a really good course and had the potential to be an ICL course though it was not quite there yet.

The proposal was tabled, and the department will be asked to clarify which designation it would like to pursue.

5. IDS 119 The Civically Engaged Scientist (new IDS course proposed for ICL designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Rebekka Darner, Director, Center for Math, Science, & Technology.

Ferrence expressed curiosity toward the course from the perspective as a scientist. After looking at the weekly schedule/assignments, he felt the course was civic in nature and he expressed interest in attending the course. Rivadeneyra thought it was a great class as well and appreciated the volunteer opportunities the course provided.

Ferrence added that while politics should be kept out of science, scientists must not stay out of politics. Rejack thought the course really took advantage of the interdisciplinary purpose and added the course could be taught in different ways by different departments across campus. Hurd informed Council members Darner planned to pilot the course for the first semester to students in a grant cohort program with the intention of making it available campus wide after that.

A motion was made by Braswell to approve IDS 119 as a new IDS course for the ICL designation. Seconded by Rejack.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Discussion Items/Updates:

6. Curriculum Software Update

Hurd informed the Council that we had secured funding for the curriculum software. The Comptroller will forward to the State of Illinois to be posted for review for two weeks. Hurd added we are still in the window established by the Office of Technology Solutions to start implementation.

7. General Education Revision Update

Hurd informed the Council that the Academic Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate met last week for two hours to discuss the revision proposal. The Committee reviewed each category one at a time and reviewed each definition. Hurd noted the Committee had concerns with the STEM and Creative Arts category definitions. For Creative Arts, the concern was focused on the ability to include creative writing to meet the requirement. Rivadeneyra pointed out that could include screenplay or script writing. Hurd agreed and added faculty from the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts wrote the proposed definition.

Concerns around the STEM definition requiring courses to include two different disciplines. Academic Affairs Committee chair, Dimitrios Nikolaou will discuss further with General Education Task Force co-chair Chris Horvath. Hurd added that faculty from CeMaST helped to write the STEM definition. The Committee has yet to review the Civic Engagement and Experiential Learning category definitions.

Hurd noted the Committee reviewed results from the survey the Academic Senate sent out earlier in the semester asking for feedback. She added that there were not any new concerns submitted that had not already been submitted during other feedback opportunities. The Committee has asked Hurd to place courses in the respective categories to ensure there are enough courses available for each requirement. Hurd said that she anticipates the Committee spending several more meetings discussing the proposal but overall, she felt good about it.

Ferrence asked what the process would be if the Committee had components of the proposal they would like to see changed. Hurd responded that Nikolaou and Academic Senate Chair Martha Horst are discussing the process. However, she thought that if the changes were small or editorial in nature, the

Committee would just make them before sending to the Academic Senate floor. If there are substantive changes, Hurd thought they would come back to the Council as the Task Force has finished its job and technically, no longer exists.

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

Meeting adjourned: 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons