

Council on General Education Minutes
November 15, 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, Kimberly Nance, Yvette Pigman, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Chris Worland, and Haiyan Xie

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Introductions

New member, Dr. Kimberly Nance, was introduced to Council members.

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

The course was proposed by Dr. Lauren Lowell, Associate Professor, School of Theatre and Dance.

Ferrence reminded members the proposal had been reviewed by the Council earlier in the semester. At the time, the Council tabled the proposal and asked the Lowell to provide a syllabus. Council members wanted to see a general idea of course requirements and a short schedule. Rivadeneyra wondered how much in the weeds the Council needed to be regarding syllabus language requirements and noted the syllabus lacked any student accommodation information. Ferrence responded that it wasn't clear to the degree central standards should be used for a syllabus in order to review a proposal. Antink Meyer noted University Policy 3.3.12 section 5, outlined the standard format for a syllabus and suggested this policy be sent to the proposer. Council members continued to discuss the merits of having standardized syllabus language.

Worland noted consideration for the AMALI designation was still on the course proposal. During previous discussion, it was determined the course was not eligible for the AMALI designation. Hurd already notified the school of the denial and noted the proposal just had not been updated. Ferrence also noted the proposer did not request the Humanities designation which was a concern during the previous review. Many, but not all, of the IDS 133 courses have this designation and Council members thought this may cause confusion for students by not having it as well. Ferrence recommended the school propose the course using a different course number if they truly did not wish to have the Humanities designation.

A motion was made by Aitken to table the proposal for an updated syllabus and clarification regarding the Humanities designation. Pigman seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

3. HON 205 Advanced Honors Seminar in Interdisciplinary Investigations (new HON course)

4. HON 206 Advanced Honors Seminar in Innovation and Inquiry (new HON course)

5. HON 207 Advanced Honors Seminar in Leadership (new HON course)

6. HON 208 Advanced Honors Seminar in Culture, Context, and Identity (new HON course)

The courses were proposed by Dr. Linda Clemmons, Director, Honors Program. The Council chose to review items 3-6 together.

Clemmons informed Council members that previously the Honors Advanced Seminars were all decimalized courses that Presidential Scholar students were required to take. Scholars were restricted to how many hours they could take in a course. The Presidential Scholars process is now divorced from the Honors Program in that students are now permitted to repeat a course if they so desire.

Rivadenebra added the previous seminars were decimalized by course topics and were treated as course repeats. Clemmons noted there are different topics taught each semester a faculty must apply to teach a course(s). Each instructor has their own course syllabus, so Clemmons was unsure what to submit as a "typical" syllabus for the Council's review.

Nance thought as the courses had variable topics, the submission of one syllabus was alright for review. Ferrence agreed and asked what led to the disconnect of the Presidential Scholars program from the Honors Program. Rivadenebra responded that the Office of Admissions controls the funding and wanted to award more than the Honors Program could sustain/support regarding courses. This caused a bottleneck for students so after review, it was determined to separate the process. Ferrence asked if Presidential Scholars no longer received a full tuition waiver. Clemmons responded the awards are based more on financial need now. She added students are still required to apply to be a Presidential Scholar and must have at least a 3.75 gpa and submit an essay for review.

Ferrence noted the nature of the courses had not changed. Rather, the proposals were an attempt to align with current circumstances and system requirements. Braswell thought they would qualify more as course revisions instead of new course proposals. Hurd responded as they are Honors course proposals, the Council is the approving body, similar to IDS course/program proposals. Nance added that while the while the proposals were not quite editorial in nature, there seemed to be no substantive changes so she would approve them.

A motion was made by Nance to approve HON 205, HON 206, HON 207, and HON 208 as new courses. Rivadenebra seconded.

Worland asked for additional clarification regarding the syllabus provided for the HON 206 proposal. Clemmons noted an older syllabus was provided. She added the course is not commonly taught and hadn't been taught since the semester of the provided syllabus. Xie asked if the same topics were taught each time. Clemmons responded that topics differ each time and added students would be permitted to take a course up to two times if topics were different. Hurd noted the course proposals would need to be updated to include the repeat condition.

A friendly amendment to the original motion was made by Aitken to approve HON 205, HON 206, HON 207, and HON 208 pending the addition of the repeat language to the course proposals. Nance seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Clemmons will make the update to the course proposals.

7. SED 101 Disability, Learning, and Education: Foundations and Philosophical Perspectives (revised Course proposed for UST designation).

The course was proposed by Dr. Yun-Ching Chung, Professor, Department of Special Education.

The proposal had been reviewed by Council members during the previous meeting. Ferrence noted the department provided a rather extensively revised syllabus for the Council to review. He added the Council was concerned during the previous discussion as it was unclear if the course had a world or United States focus.

Aitken had concerns regarding the UST designation request and thought the descriptions provided were vague. He could not see the course belonging in the UST category and added there while there are a lot of courses we teach within the framework of United States culture, it does not mean they all should be qualified as UST courses. Nance had similar concerns and noted in several Spanish courses, students read/discuss novels in Spanish. As they refer to the United States does this automatically mean these courses should then be considered for UST as well.

Worland thought the focus was on K-12 education and he had wanted verification it was specifically on United States K-12 education in order to qualify for the UST designation. He reviewed the proposal using an institutional lens. Rivadeneyra reviewed the syllabus and noted the focus seemed to be on teachers/professionals and not general education. Aitken added he did not see a lot of history/historical content focus in the course which is a component of the UST designation.

Hurd told Council members the department was requesting the UST designation in an effort to increase in enrollment in Special Education. Nance asked if the course was taken only by Special Education majors. Worland thought SED 101 was open to most majors. Aitken confirmed and noted that while the department may major block one or two sections, for the most part the course was open to all students.

If the Council decided to reject the proposal, members would like to invite the course proposer to a future meeting to discuss questions/concerns and discuss further options. Hurd noted the course is also pending review for the IDEAS designation and asked Ferrence to refrain from sending the proposal back to the department until she could verify the routing situation.

A motion was made by Nance to table action on the proposal pending Hurd's findings regarding proposal routing in the curriculum system. Aitken seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Hurd will contact the Registrar's Office regarding the routing concern.

A motion was made by Worland to adjourn the meeting. Aitken seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Soemer Simmons