

Council on General Education Agenda
December 5, 2017
10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140

Presiding: Rocio Rivadeneyra

Present: Alan Bates, James Cunningham, Amina Jinadu, Sally Parry, Carla Pohl, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Michael Rubio, Jean Standard, Benjamin Stiers and Chad Woolard

Guests: Derek Herrmann Meyers, Assistant Director Academic Services, University Assessment Office

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

Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes

The question was called. Parry made a motion to accept the October 10, 2017 minutes. Pohl seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

2. PHI 257 Medieval Philosophy (new course proposed for Humanities) & PHI 270 Existentialism (new course proposed for Humanities)

The courses were proposed by Drs. David Sanson and Derek O'Connell, respectively, from the Department of Philosophy. The Council concurrently reviewed and discussed both courses.

Parry informed the Council members that both courses had been passed by the College Curriculum Committee. According to Parry, Philosophy is currently redoing its curriculum. Rivadeneyra asked about the typical size for a Philosophy course of this nature. Parry believed the typical size would be around 25-30 students and would include a fair amount of writing.

Rivadeneyra noted that the proposal for PHI 257 did not include a rationale for why the course should be considered for general education credit. She asked if the Council should send the proposal back to the department. Parry said that it would not be inappropriate for the Council to return the proposal and request it be resubmitted with the rationale. Council members decided to continue with the discussion.

Aitken was unable to attend the meeting but sent his thoughts to Simmons to be shared with the group. Aitken noted, that with the exception of 101, it is difficult to fill Philosophy courses. Also, as both courses would have COM 110 and ENG 101 as prerequisites, it will be difficult to fill them as many students already have taken a Humanities course prior to completing both prerequisites. Aitken felt that both courses met the spirit of the Humanities designation but was concerned that the Council could be overpopulating the category with courses that students would not be likely to enroll.

Parry believed Aitken made good points and said she would be surprised if more than a handful of students enroll in either course to satisfy the Humanities requirement. Standard asked if Parry had a sense that if Philosophy had to choose only one course to count toward the Humanities requirement, which one they would prefer. Parry did not.

Rivadeneyra asked if there were too many course choices for Humanities. Standard mentioned that the original intention was to provide a more consistent background for students. By continuously adding courses,

the University is in a sense, just building up the old University Studies program again. Parry noted that Philosophy currently has eight courses that have a general education designation with six of them counting in the Humanities. Rivadeneyra pointed out that equated to one-third of the category. Parry was concerned that adding both courses in the category might be troublesome in regards to creating an artificial understanding of seats available.

Parry consulted the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) website to see if there were parallel descriptors. Standard mentioned in the past, the Council would periodically review courses in each category. If course content had changed from the category's objectives or the course is rarely populated, then the Council should consider removing it from the category. Parry agreed and noted that IAI did not have a parallel descriptor for PHI 257 but did have one for PHI 270.

Rubio questioned if there was much difference between PHI 257 and PHI 224, Meaning and Religious Belief, which is currently offered. He noted from a student's perspective, there did not seem to be much of a difference between the two courses. Parry mentioned that Rubio had a good point and that she would guess there would most likely be some overlaps but the courses would have slightly different perspectives. Rivadeneyra asked if the courses fit the spirit of the category. Parry was not sure if the course served the need of students in regards to general education. Woolard believed the courses definitely served the needs of students pursuing the major but may not be appropriate for the Humanities designation in General Education.

Rivadeneyra asked if anyone would like to call the question for PHI 257. No one wished to call the question.

Rivadeneyra asked if anyone would like to call the question for PHI 270. No one wished to call the question.

Rivadeneyra will notify Sanson and O'Connell.

3. Review of CGE Charge

Council members were asked to review the following changes to the Council's Charge:

COUNCIL ON GENERAL EDUCATION

Membership: 18 voting members as follows:

Nine (9) Faculty:

- 1 representative of College of Applied Science
- 3 representatives of College of Arts and Science
- 1 from Humanities
- 1 from Natural Sciences
- 1 from Social Sciences
- 1 representative from College of Business
- 1 representative from College of Education
- 1 representative from College of Fine Arts
- 1 representative from Milner Library
- 1 representative from the Mennonite College of Nursing

Faculty serving on the Council on General Education should have taught in the program or have familiarity with the program if their college does not contribute to the program.

Terms: Faculty members shall serve staggered three-year terms, ensuring continuity from one year to the next. Three members shall be appointed or reappointed to the committee each year. Nominations for membership shall be made by the respective college for approval by the Faculty Caucus.

Four (4) students - representative of at least two different colleges nominated and elected by the Student Government Association for 1-year terms.

Five (5) Ex Officios:

University Curriculum Committee Chairperson (or designee)

CAS Associate Dean

Director of Honors Program

One representative from University College

Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education

Officers: The Chairperson shall be elected by and from members.

Functions:

1. Ensures that the spirit of the ~~Philosophy~~ **Mission and Goals** of General Education is maintained by the program.
2. Continually monitors the program, insuring that objectives of the program and the student outcomes are being met.
3. Makes recommendations to the Academic Senate regarding program modifications.
4. Approves course additions or deletions.
5. Consults with the ~~Program Director~~ **Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education** regarding implementation of the program.
6. Reviews and approves or disapproves all proposals for new IDS courses **and minors** and changes in existing IDS courses **and minors**.

Disposition of Recommendations:

The committee is advisory to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education and the Academic Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate on changes in the program itself and other recommendations such as amendments and bylaws.

During a previous discussion, it had been asked if the review and approval of AMALI courses needed to be added to the Charge as well. Rivadeneyra reported that this responsibility is actually handled by the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) and is not a function of the Council.

The question was called. Pohl made a motion to approve the Charge with the outlined changes. Woolard seconded.

All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Simmons will notify Cera Christensen, Academic Senate Clerk, of the revisions.

Information Items:

4. African-American Studies Minor Update

At the last Council meeting held on October 10, 2017, members voted to approve the African-American Studies Minor proposal pending receipt of the Department of Psychology's letter of support. Rivadeneyra reported that the letter of support had been received and had been forwarded to the UCC for approval. Standard reported that the UCC had approved the proposal as well.

5. U.S. Diversity Graduation Requirement Update

Rivadeneyra gave Council members an update on the status of the U.S. Diversity Graduation Requirement ad hoc committee. The Committee met all semester and has nearly reached the end of its charge. A panel presented at the Culturally Responsive Campus Community (CRCC) conference in November and received good feedback. The proposed graduation requirement has been named Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access in U.S. Society (IDEAS). Learning outcomes and catalog copy have been drafted and will be presented to the Provost later this month. A smaller sub-committee will be reviewing course syllabi late next week and then Rosenthal will begin looking at available capacity.

A motion was made by Woolard to adjourn. Parry seconded.

All in favor, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned: 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons