

**Council on General Education Agenda**  
**January 31, 2017**  
**10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140**

**Presiding:** Jonathan Rosenthal

**Present:** Brian Aitken, Alan Bates, James Cunningham, Katherine Ellison, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Jonathan Rosenthal and Vanessa Schulman

**Guests:** Derek Herrmann Meyers, Assistant Director Academic Services, University Assessment Office  
George Rutherford, Associate Professor, Physics

Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Election of Chair**

Rocio Rivadeneyra volunteered to serve as chair.

**Management and Quantitative Methods 128, Entrepreneurial Business Fundamentals (proposed for QR)**

This proposal has been submitted by faculty from the College of Business's George R. & Martha Means Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. The focus of the Center is to promote entrepreneurship throughout the University. Rutherford presented in favor of allowing the course to meet the QR general education requirement. The program is working toward offering a minor in Entrepreneurship and currently offers IDS 113, The Entrepreneurial Mindset. This course serves as the base course of the minor and focuses on students learning the soft skills needed to be a successful entrepreneur such as presentation and team-work skills. MQM 128 would be considered as a "nuts and bolts" course and would not be limited to just business students. Rutherford presented Council members with lists of topics from two different courses to illustrate the quantitative skills are applicable to other areas outside of the business curriculum. Rutherford noted that students taking MQM 128 must exercise quantitative reasoning skills in order to create the complex excel spreadsheets needed to calculate and conduct break-even point analysis. Rosenthal and Parry had discussed the proposal at an earlier date and had concerns that the course was a great business course but was too narrow in focus to be considered as a QR course. Ellison was excited by the prospect of the Entrepreneurship minor and the idea that business courses would be more accessible to students. However, she had concerns about adding the course to general education and would possibly like to see more of a focus on ethics related topics. Rutherford commented that ethics are discussed during the regulation topics. He also noted that the IDS 113 has always filled when it is offered and enrollment tends to be multi-disciplinary with few business students. Schulman suggested possibly updating the topics and student learning outcomes to make them more consonant with general education goals. Rivadeneyra would like to do a comparison with other courses with the QR designation. Syllabi from other QR courses will be provided to the Council to review. The proposal was tabled until the next meeting for further discussion.

**Anthropology 297, Lost Continents and Sunken Cities (proposed for Humanities)**

The proposal was submitted by James Skibo, Sociology and Anthropology Chair. Rosenthal and Parry reviewed proposal earlier and Parry had reservations with the request as anthropology is usually considered a social or hard science rather than a part of the humanities. Members reviewed proposed course topics and Aitken, Schulman and Ellison believed the course could be considered as an interdisciplinary humanities course. Ellison recommended that the proposal should look for additional ways to make the connection to the humanities elements clearer. As there was no quorum, a vote on the proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

**Minor in Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (revised to add course)**

Proposal to add additional courses to minor requirements. A vote on the proposal was tabled until the next meeting.

**Proposal to recommend a course on world religions (courses and capacity)**

Discussion is in response to a request sent from Academic Senate Chair, Susan Kalter. Rosenthal commented that if the University is serious about cultural sensitivity, then the topic of world religions should be infused in the curriculum through current coursework and not just through one course. The Council needs to take into consideration recommendations from the Diversity Task Force as well. It was recognized that it is easier said than done to incorporate the topic into the current curriculum. Ellison posed the question of how many courses in the catalog contain world religions and both Aitken and Rosenthal responded that there were several but not many. Aitken expressed surprise that ISU did not offer a world religions course and pointed out that PHI 207, Indian Philosophy and PHI 208, Buddhist Philosophy had previously been removed as general education courses. Members determined that incorporating this topic into the Individuals and Civic Life (ICL) may be a good place to make it more accessible to students. Ellison and Schulman both questioned the logistics in infusing the topic into existing courses in terms of available instructors as well as ensuring faculty update courses accordingly. It was pointed out that many times, new faculty do not even know they are teaching a general education course. The proposal will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Due to time constraints, the following agenda items will be discussed at the next meeting:

1. General Education Assessment-Derek Herrmann Meyers
2. Art 100
3. Management and Quantitative Methods 121 (discussion on placement)
4. Sociology 240 (proposed for ICL)

Meeting adjourned: 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons