

Council on General Education Minutes
February 7, 2023
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Brian Aitken, Mary Elaine Califf, Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Kimberly Nance, Yvette Pigman, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Chris Worland, and Haiyan Xie

Ferrence called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Guests:

Dr. Yun-Ching Chung, Professor, Department of Special Education
Derrek Drenckpohl, Program Coordinator, Department of Special Education

Action Items:

1. 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 discussed at the previous Council meeting and suggestions were given to Chung and Drenckpohl. The course proposal was revised and sent back to the Council for consideration.

Ferrence was impressed at the speed of which the proposal was revised and resubmitted and remarked at how well the syllabus now aligned with UST designation learning objectives. He added he was happy to see the course was also now being proposed for the IDEAS designation.

Nance made a motion to approve SED 101 for the UST designation. Worland seconded. Discussion continued.

Chung told the Council she really appreciated its feedback from the prior meeting. Council members commended Chung and Drenckpohl's efforts and thought the proposal could now serve as an example to others as how to propose a course. Aitken asked if the department planned on offering additional seats. Chung confirmed the plan going forward was to offer additional seats for student enrollment. Drenckpohl added the department wanted students outside of the major to get a taste of what the course offered.

A vote was taken. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

2. IDS 121A01 Texts and Contexts: Leisure, gaming, and culture (new IDS course proposed for LH Designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Rachel Shively, Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Ferrence told Council members he believed the proposal had previously been reviewed in the fall. Simmons confirmed and noted the course number had been changed from IDS 189A01 to IDS 121A01 as the IDS 189A01 was a temporary course. Due to a timing issue, Simmons explained the previous number still appeared on the syllabus as the proposer was most likely unaware of the required number change.

Ferrence reminded the Council that during its previous review of the course, there was concern regarding the nature/type of writing assignments required of students. The Council previously tabled the proposal and asked the department to provide additional information. The department revised the proposal and resubmitted for the Council's review.

A motion was made by Rivadeneyra to approve IDS 121A01 as a new IDS course with the LH designation. Califf seconded. Discussion continued.

Worland asked for verification the course was a three-hour course that was offered in an asynchronous hybrid format. Hurd confirmed and added it had been offered as an eight-week course. Califf thought the revised proposal addressed the Council's previous concerns and met the requirements for the LH designation. Nance agreed the course required really robust writing from students and fulfilled the designation's requirements.

A vote was taken. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

3. Data Science (new program/courses)

- a) IDS 398A05 Professional Practice Internship in Data Science (new IDS course)
- b) IDS 388 Capstone/Directed Project in Data Science (new IDS course)
- c) Data Science Major (new IDS program)
- d) Data Science, Individualized Plan of Study Sequence (new IDS program)
- e) Data Science, Business Analytics Sequence (new IDS program)
- f) Data Science, Social Demographic/Public Policy Analysis Sequence (new IDS program)
- g) Data Science, Population Health Sequence (new IDS program)
- h) Data Science, Big Data and Computational Intelligence Sequence (new IDS program)

Hurd provided Council members a breakdown of the core course requirements for the sequences. Ferrence suggested the Council review the individual courses first, then the major, and then the individual sequences.

a) IDS 398A05 Professional Practice Internship in Data Science (new IDS course)

Ferrence noted it was a three-hour credit course and seemed to align with other 398 courses already offered. Califf confirmed everything in the proposal looked standard.

Califf made a motion to approve IDS 398A05 as a new IDS course. Antink Meyer seconded. Discussion continued.

Based on the amount of work, Braswell questioned why the course was being offered as a three-hour credit course instead of a four-hour credit course. Califf responded the determination was based on the amount of school and contact hours. Hurd added the current policy stipulates

there must be 45 contact hours to equal one hour of credit. However, she noted the policy does not directly take into account internship experiences.

A vote was taken. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

b) IDS 388 Capstone/Directed Project in Data Science (new IDS course)

Ferrence noted 388 is a common course number on campus for independent studies of this nature. Califf added the course number is usually used for small group projects with real stakeholders working on real scenarios. She added the course looked similar in content to those courses.

Aitken made a motion to approve IDS 388 as a new IDS course. Braswell seconded. Discussion continued.

Ferrence asked if students were expected to work in teams, what would happen if a student was in a different major. Califf was doubtful that would occur, and Rivadeneyra added with an expected program enrollment of 200-250, this should not be an issue.

A vote was taken. All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

c) Data Science Major (new IDS program)

d) Data Science, Individualized Plan of Study Sequence (new IDS program)

e) Data Science, Business Analytics Sequence (new IDS program)

f) Data Science, Social Demographic/Public Policy Analysis Sequence (new IDS program)

g) Data Science, Population Health Sequence (new IDS program)

h) Data Science, Big Data and Computational Intelligence Sequence (new IDS program)

Ferrence noted there was not much to the Data Science Major proposal and asked if it was just required to be approved because of the individual sequences. Hurd verified that was the case. The Council decided to begin with discussion and then proceed from there.

Ferrence noted that per Hurd's "cheat sheet" there were noticeable course commonalities in all the sequences, even though not all were specifically called out in the individual proposals. He added the Big Data and Computational Intelligence Sequence specifically excluded students from taking the POL 309 as a course option which he found odd. Hurd responded she and Rivadeneyra needed to follow up on that issue. She added the Social Demographic/Public Policy Analysis Sequence does not recommend students take the course but did not remove it as an option all together.

Ferrence asked if each sequence required the same number of hours. Hurd responded when previously reviewed, each one added up to 120 hours. Califf added each proposal will be closely scrutinized for those details as well by UCC. She assumed as the core looked almost if not identical to the current program in Math, it should be in good shape as it had been already

vetted and approved for that program. Nance thought all the proposed sequences were academically rigorous.

Aitken pointed out that BIS 167 in the Business Analytics Sequence did not seem to be counted in the hours total. Hurd responded she thought Ginny Smith in the College of Business had reviewed but she would verify with her. Rivadeneyra added if the sequence proposal needed updated, it should be requested the submitting department information on the proposal be corrected as well.

Braswell questioned which set of courses the Individualized Plan of Study Sequence would require. Califf responded courses in individualized plans are typically approved on an individual student basis with the consultation of an advisor or department chairperson. Rivadeneyra confirmed the sequence is intended to be more of a “sandbox” sequence and would allow students to explore new trends in their respective fields. She added as part of the Financial Implications Form, the plan is to hire an advisor to oversee the sequence. Nance thought additional description needed to be added to the proposal to show approval is needed by someone. She suggested adding verbiage that a plan of study would be “...chosen in collaboration with the advisor and approved by...” to the description. Califf agreed and pointed out similar verbiage appears on other courses at the University. Hurd will ask Registrar staff for the standard language.

A motion was made by Aitken to approve action items 3c-3g pending the suggested language edits to the Individualized Plan of Study Sequence and clarification of the BIS 167 issue in the Business Analytics Sequence. Worland seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Discussion continued regarding the Big Data and Computational Intelligence Sequence.

Council members questioned why POL 309 was removed as an option from this sequence as it was considered as part of the core set of courses. Members felt if there is a core set of courses, then they should not be changed by one sequence and if so, the department should provide an explicit rationale of why the course should be excluded. It was suggested the course be allowed to remain on the course list but with additional language of “...students are strongly advised not to take POL 309 for this sequence.”

A motion was made by Califf to approve action item 3h pending the revision of language regarding POL 309. Nance seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Califf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Hurd seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons