

Council on General Education Minutes
September 6, 2022
10-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Amy Hurd

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

Hurd called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Action Items:

1. Introductions

Introductions were made.

2. Overview of the Council

Documents giving an overview of the Council and General Education designation definitions were sent to all members prior to the meeting. Hurd explained to new members that the Council is an external committee of the Academic Senate. This Council reviews requests involving General Education designations to new and existing courses, as well as all IDS courses and minors. Hurd explained new programs approved by CGE go to the UCC for further review while new courses are then sent to her for approval. Hurd noted that while it is not in the Council's current charge, this body also reviews graduation requirements such as AMALI, IDEAS, and BS-SMT. She added one of the items the Council will need to work on this fall is updating the charge to reflect that work.

Hurd reminded members the IDEAS graduation requirement will go into effect with the incoming fall 2023 class. The Council currently oversees an ad hoc panel of experts that consisted of nine individuals last spring. That committee approved four courses for the IDEAS designation. She explained it took a little while for the group to set review standards and that she anticipated a large workload for them this fall. Hurd noted AMALI course review is currently handled differently in that when a proposal comes in, she sends it for review to individuals from a list of qualified reviewers. While there are very few courses proposed for AMALI, Hurd noted that going forward, the process should most likely be the same for both ad hoc committees.

Hurd also reminded members that meetings are held as needed every other Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. throughout fall and spring. Members will receive meeting packets from Simmons typically the Friday prior to a scheduled meeting that will contain all meeting documents. However, members can also access documents through the Curriculum Forms website. She noted that 10 members must be in attendance to establish quorum. It was noted currently we have only one of four student members appointed to the Council.

Hurd informed Council members the Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) is a state-wide program that has been in existence since 1998 and consists of 110 public and private institutions. IAI provides a General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package that is made up of between 37-41 hours for transfer students. She explained IAI designated courses are reviewed every five years to determine if they still meet designation requirements and added the criteria is fairly strict for keeping the designation. There

are various IAI panels that Illinois State faculty sit on to help review these courses but not all panels have ISU faculty representation.

Hurd added the University is currently in the process of a General Education revision. The process was started in fall 2019 but work was slowed dramatically due to COVID. Work resumed last year, and Hurd thinks the Executive Committee will have something for this Council to begin reviewing by the end of this fall semester. Califf asked where in the process faculty would have the opportunity to see the proposed revisions and provide feedback. Hurd thought that would occur prior to the proposal coming before the Council. She added Drs. Chris Horvath and Cheri Simonds were co-chairing the Executive Committee. Hurd will provide updates to the Council throughout the semester.

3. Election of Chair

Hurd opened the floor for nominations. Califf nominated Ferrence to serve as chair. Aitken seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The motion passed.

Ferrence asked Hurd to preside over the meeting.

4. Approval of August, 24 2021 Minutes

5. Approval of September 21, 2021 Minutes

6. Approval of October 5, 2021 Minutes

7. Approval of March 22, 2022 Minutes

8. Approval of April 19, 2022 Minutes

The Council chose to review items 4-8 together. Hurd asked if there were any corrections to any of the minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. All minutes were accepted as submitted.

9. IDS 121A02 Texts and Contexts: Place as Text: Ireland (new course proposed for LH designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Linda Clemmons, Director, Honors Program.

Clemmons gave Council members an overview of the course. The course is linked to the Honors Study Abroad experience. Each year, the study abroad experience is held in a different location, so each location needs to be approved by the Council for General Education credit. The Place as Text learning model is used for each course. This model is accredited by the National Collegiate Honors Council and focuses on a highly experiential experience that encourages students to approach the experience through all of their senses. Clemmons added the course contains five writing assignments and is writing intensive.

Ferrence asked how many students and faculty are expected to participate in the course. Clemmons responded at least 10 students must enroll in order for the study abroad trip to occur. For enrollment between 10-14 students, one faculty member will accompany the group. An additional faculty member will attend if enrollment for the trip is 15 or more students. Clemmons added they also have additional support in Ireland through Butler University and that she would like to see about 20 students enroll for this experience. Clemmons will be serving as the faculty member on the trip and has two additional faculty members who are willing to go as well if needed.

Ferrence asked where in Ireland the course would be held in. Clemmons responded the course would be held four days in Dublin and four days in Galway. Ferrence was happy to know the group would be in Galway and thought the experience would be a good blend of current vs. historical perspectives.

Aitken wondered why the Honors courses were offered under IDS 121 as opposed to the other study abroad courses offered as IDS 133. IDS 133 courses count toward the Humanities requirement while IDS 121 courses count toward Language in the Humanities. Worland thought the difference had to do with the nature of the Honors courses as they were writing intensive but that was not a requirement with the IDS 133 courses. Rivadeneyra added the IDS 121 courses were all based off the Place as Text model while other study abroad courses are not. Aitken agreed the IDS 121 seemed to fit the LH designation and noted IDS 133 study abroad courses were more of a catch all that allowed for more flexibility as they are not based on the Place as Text model.

A motion was made by Worland to approve IDs 121A02 as a new course for the LH designation. Califf seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

10. IDEAS Committee

Hurd reminded members that a call had gone out last fall to all faculty members asking for volunteers who would be interested in serving on the IDEAS ad hoc review committee. Six members were selected last fall to serve on the panel. This fall, committee members were asked if they would like to continue to serve on the review panel. Three committee members, Ellis Hurd, Chelsea Kuehner, and Miranda Lin responded they would be willing to serve again. Hurd asked Council members if they would approve of sending another call out to all faculty for additional volunteers. Hurd added she would love to have enough faculty interest to be able to form a second review committee.

Council members agreed a call should go out asking for additional faculty volunteers. Hurd and Rivadeneyra will work on drafting an email and getting something sent out soon.

11. IDEAS Curriculum

Last spring, the Council began discussions regarding where IDEAS fit as a curriculum committee. Per the Academic Senate, IDEAS cannot continue as an ad hoc committee going forward. Hurd noted the Academic Senate is in the process of revising its bylaws so this Council needs to make a decision fairly quickly as to how it would like to proceed. Below are the options the Council discussed in the spring.

Option 1: Establish a Council on Undergraduate Graduation Requirements with three groups: general education, AMALI, IDEAS.

Option 2: Committee of CGE members where the IDEAS sub-committee is pulled from the greater CGE. The sub-committee would make recommendations to the CGE for final approval. The membership of CGE could be expanded to accommodate IDEAS experts or remain the same.

Option 3: A new IDEAS curriculum committee & a new AMALI curriculum committee solicited and approved by the faculty caucus. The curriculum committees would then be CGE, UCC, GCC, IDEAS, AMALI, & CTE.

Option 4: Committee of CGE members where the IDEAS sub-committee is pulled from the greater CGE and additional members from outside of CGE are added (like CTE). Only the CGE members could be

voting, but the sub-committee provides recommendations to CGE and is not a binding vote as a sub-committee.

Califf thought option 4 made the most sense and felt that having it as a top-level committee as recommended in option 1 felt like a mistake. While not ideal, modeling the Council for Teacher Education's model of making IDEAS an external committee of this Council seems to be the most logical. Califf thought handling proposals through a consent agenda process may be the least disruptive and added that she thought there could be too many committees if both IDEAS and AMALI were their own committees.

Rivadeneira understood why Califf preferred option 4 but was concerned that with that option, as only Council members are allowed voting privileges, subject experts would not get a voting voice. She would prefer to revising options 1 and three and asked if it would be an option to combine the IDEAS and AMALI committees. Hurd thought it could be an option but wondered if either group would then lose its identity.

Ferrence was concerned with the balance of representation from each college. He noted recruitment would need to be done and wondered how the subdivision of work and alignment of people would work. Califf noted the sticking point for option 4 seemed to be that sub-committee members could not vote. She wondered as the Academic Senate was reviewing its bylaws, if they could make a change to allow for a new structure as the Council is being handcuffed by their current rules. Hurd noted that was a good point and that it would help with the Council on Teacher Education as well.

Due to time constraints, the Council will continue discussion at its next meeting. Hurd will contact Academic Senate Chair Dr. Martha Horst for clarification regarding some of the questions presented in today's meeting and will share at the next meeting.

Worland made a motion to adjourn. Pigman seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 11:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons