

Council on General Education Minutes
September 7, 2021
10-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Amy Hurd

Present: Brian Aitken, Mary Elaine Califf, Gregory Ferrence, Genevieve Fritz, Amy Hurd, Tony Marinello, Allison Antink Meyer, Yvette Pigman, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Indira Robinson, Amy Wood, and Chris Worland

Guests:
Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

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

Action Items:

1. Election of Chair

Hurd opened the floor for nominations. Marinello nominated Worland to serve as chair. Aitken seconded.

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

Worland took over the meeting.

2. Approval of April 20, 2021 Minutes

Worland asked if there were any corrections to the April 20, 2021 minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

3. IDS 99A01 Identity in Residence Hall Communities (new course)

The course was proposed by Brian Johnson, Area Coordinator, University Housing Services. The course was discussed at the previous meeting. Discussion was tabled due to lack of quorum and additional questions by the Council.

Hurd contacted Jamie Neville in University Housing Services for clarification.

Per an email sent to Hurd, Neville clarified IDS 89A01, which was already passed by the Council, would only be taken once by first-semester Resident Assistants (RAs). IDS 99A01 would be a repeatable course that RAs would enroll in each semester afterwards and would be more of a topics-based course.

Worland noted the descriptions for IDS 89A01 and IDS 99A01 were exactly the same and asked if the syllabus for IDS 99A01 needed to be updated to reflect the difference. Aitken added the syllabus for the course also mistakenly said RAs would take it during their first semester of service. Marinello asked if it was under the Council's authority to request change. Worland responded as the course was under IDS, the Council served as the curriculum committee and had the authority to recommend the change.

Wood asked if it was alright if both courses had the same syllabi and readings or if they should be different as well. Worland responded IDS 99A01 seemed to be intended as more of a topics-based course so it made sense topics weren't clearly outlined as they could/would change each semester as

needed. Califf noted the University has other topics-based courses and there should still be some type of listing for them available on the syllabus. Hurd suggested wording be added along the lines of “topics could include but not be limited to...” Califf agreed and suggested a mockup of a syllabus be presented with tentative topics.

Ferrence commented on how the class was unusual as it was created more for liability and training and that there was a greater need for flexibility than traditional courses. Council members agreed there needed to be greater flexibility but that there should be a clear difference between the two courses. Council members also agreed they wanted to see more information on the IDS 99A01 syllabus in reference to suggested topics. Hurd recommended inviting Neville to the next Council meeting to help address the Council’s questions.

A motion was made by Wood to table the discussion pending receipt of a revised syllabus. Marinello seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried.

Hurd will follow-up with University Housing staff regarding the proposal and will invite Neville to attend the next Council meeting.

4. IDS 231 Civic Engagement in a Global Community (new course proposed for ICL designation)

5. IDS 232 Civic Engagement in the United States (new course proposed for ICL designation)

The Council chose to review and discuss items four and five together as they are related. Both courses were proposed by Katy Strzepek, Director, Center for Civic Engagement.

Worland noted the Council met with Strzepek and Annie Weaver, Assistant Director, Center for Civic Engagement, last spring to discuss both courses. He noted IDS 231 was set up more for longer-type, more pronounced experiences, such as a trip to Kenya. IDS 232, was for shorter, less-intensive experiences but both courses would have similar readings and assignments. Rivadeneyra asked if they were both alternative spring break experiences and Hurd confirmed one was a domestic experience and one was an international one.

Ferrence noted the syllabi for both courses were identical. Califf wondered if perhaps the wrong document was uploaded for IDS 232 as the proposal themselves were different. Rivadeneyra thought it was a good opportunity to differentiate between the two experiences and hoped Califf was correct. Ferrence asked how it would work as both courses were available for two to three credit hours and that the proposals specifically mentioned there would be 2.5 contact lecture hours per week. Califf responded that concern was a major portion of the Council’s spring discussion. Worland added Strzepek used guidelines set forth by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to determine the number of hours of learning activities required to equal one hour of course credit. The number of hours a student would register for would be dependent upon the type of trip. Marinello noted the School of Music had similar courses and it just required diligent communication between the student, faculty member and the Registrar’s Office.

Rivadeneira questioned how the variable hours would impact a student meeting their ICL requirement. Hurd responded the plan is to eventually decimalize the course so that each trip/experience is its own course number. For example, the Kenya trip may be listed as IDS 231A01. She also believed the students who would be interested in either course would have already fulfilled their ICL requirement as it is typically taken during their first year.

Ferrence asked if there was a limitation in the curriculum proposal system which required the number of lecture/lab hours to be submitted and incorrectly labeled. Hurd responded she had met with Strzepek and Weaver had they had corrected the hours issue in the proposal. Ferrence suggested "Other" be added in the curriculum system for item/question three as these courses would not fall under the traditional course model. Califf added the argument could be made that asynchronous courses do not fit the traditional model either.

Worland believed that Strzepek either inadvertently uploaded the wrong syllabus file for IDS 232 or, if that was not the case, the syllabus for the course needed to be revised to differentiate it from IDS 231. Califf asked if the Council should consider both courses together as a package or if everyone was comfortable voting on IDS 231. Worland preferred to handle both courses simultaneously to make sure both were correct before voting on them.

Califf made a motion to table the proposals pending receipt of a corrected syllabus for IDS 232. Antink Meyer seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

Worland will contact Strzepek for additional information.

6. IDS 121A03 Texts and Contexts: Early Music (course revision)

Proposed by Dr. Marie Labonville, Associate Professor, School of Music.

Marinello and Hurd believed the department decided to pull the course revision request. Hurd will contact the department to verify.

Discussion Items:

1. IDEAS Update

Hurd informed Council members the IDEAS graduation requirement had been sent to the Academic Senate floor for discussion and she anticipated a vote on it this fall. The Senate will discuss the learning objectives and the implementation process separately. Hurd believes there will be an ad hoc committee formed that will be tasked with reviewing proposals and conducting a five-year review process for selected courses. Wood asked if the process would be similar to AMALI. Hurd noted AMALI courses are reviewed by an expert panel of faculty and there currently isn't a review process for AMALI courses, or general education, as a whole. Since there is no review process, there will not be a separate curriculum committee.

2. General Education Task Force Update

Hurd informed Council members there will be a General Education retreat held on October 1 for all task force executive committee members and for those that served on committees over the summer. The group will review the current status and prepare to take recommendations to the faculty for input.

3. IAI Panel Update

Aiello noted IAI panel updates will begin on October 1. Currently, the University has approximately 20-21 courses up for review.

4. KNR 175 Proposal Update

Hurd contacted Michael Mulvaney regarding the Council's proposed changes. Mulvaney is on sabbatical so it may be a while before the proposal returns to the Council for review.

Wood made a motion to adjourn. Marinello seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons