

Council on General Education Minutes

November 28, 2023

10:00-11:00 a.m., STV 140

Presiding: Gregory Ferrence

Present: Brian Aitken, Allison Antink Meyer, Gregory Braswell, Linda Clemmons, Gregory Ferrence, Amy Hurd, Katie Krcmarik, Josh Newport, Brian Rejack, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Jack White, and Chris Worland

Guests:

Malinda Aiello, Program Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative

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

Action Items:

1. Approval of October 31, 2023 Minutes

Ferrence asked if there were any corrections to the minutes as submitted. There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted as submitted.

2. PHI 202 Philosophy of Sex and Sexuality (existing course revision of HUM course)

The course was proposed by Dr. Christopher Horvath, Chair, Department of Philosophy.

Ferrence reminded Council members the proposal had been tabled at the last meeting as it did not have a syllabus. In addition, Council members had concerns regarding the proposed prerequisite of 45 hours on a General Education course. The question was also raised if the course would be a better fit for the SS designation instead of the HUM designation. Hurd reached out to Horvath for a syllabus and rationale regarding the hours requirement and designation. Horvath provided a syllabus and rationale for the Council to review.

Worland noted he had raised the question at the last meeting regarding the designation. However, upon further review, he noted the other Philosophy General Education courses typically fall within the HUM category and he no longer had any objections to this course remaining in the HUM category. However, he expressed strong reservations regarding having a 45-hour prerequisite and felt the number of hours was pretty extensive. He added if students only take 12 hours a semester, they would not be allowed to take the course until their fourth or fifth semester and felt that the requirement went against the spirit of General Education.

Newport agreed and noted most students front load General Education courses into the first few semesters so that they can focus on major courses later. White responded that as a student, there would be no way he would take this course as it would be too late to have to take a General Education course. Ferrence asked if the department was expecting their majors to take the course to fulfill the General Education requirement. Aitken responded that it was not likely as students had other HUM options they could take earlier to fulfill the requirement.

Worland thought the department may be trying to control enrollment due to the subject matter/material of the course. However, if students were truly interested in the course and the nature of the material

was clearly outlined on the syllabus, he felt students should be given the opportunity to self-select to enroll, especially within General Education. He suggested lowering the number of hours. Antink Meyer agreed but questioned having even a lower number of required hours as a prerequisite. She asked that if the course was in General Education, shouldn't it be accessible to student. She wondered if the issue was how many hours the department requested or that the department was prerequisiting itself out of General Education.

Ferrence wondered if most students had completed the HUM requirement by the time they had earned 45 hours. Aitken responded that while there are always a few outliers, most students completed the requirement by their second year. Rivadeneyra was concerned of the message that would be sent by approving the requested prerequisite. Ferrence asked if any other General Education courses had such a high hour prerequisite. Aitken thought there may be a few that specified a required number of hours but could not think of specific courses at that time.

Aiello informed Council members that from an IAI perspective, the course could not count toward General education due to the prerequisite. She added having the prerequisite defies the State's guidelines and sets a bad precedent going forward. Rejack asked why the Registrar's Office rejected the current prerequisite of COM 110 and ENG 101. Hurd explained the Registrar does not determine or dictate pre-requisites. They did recently ask all departments to review their prerequisites in an effort to clean up discrepancies between catalog and Course Finder descriptions. She thought there may be a misunderstanding between the department and the Registrar regarding being required to remove the two courses as the prerequisite.

Council members wondered if the course should remove the 45-hour suggested prerequisite but maintain the ENG 101 and COM 110 requirements. However, members were unable to determine the complexity of writing that the course would require in order to warrant keeping those prerequisites. Ferrence suggested inviting Horvath to the next meeting to discuss the Council's concerns with him directly.

A motion was made by Rivadeneyra to table the proposal and invite Horvath to attend the next meeting to address the Council's concerns. Rejack seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed. Hurd will contact Horvath to see if he would be willing/available to attend the Council's first spring meeting.

3. HSC 209 Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health (new course proposed for SMT designation)

The course was proposed by Dr. Jacqueline Lanier, Professor, Department of Health Sciences (HSC).

Ferrence noted the course was a new course being proposed for the SMT and IDEAS designation. Based on the perspective/lens the course looked at the subject matter, both Newport and Rivadeneyra believed the course would fulfill the SMT designation requirements. Worland and Rivadeneyra noted the data-driven approach of the course. Aitken thought the course was similar to HSC 208 and wondered if the department would be phasing out that course. However, he thought this course seemed to fit the SMT designation as well. Newport responded he had taught HSC 208 before and felt it was a vastly different course than this one.

A motion was made by Aitken to approve HSC 209 for the SMT designation. Rivadeneyra seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion passed.

4. FCS 112 American Family: Change and Diversity (existing course revision of UST course)

The course was proposed by Dr. Micheal Rowley, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS).

Ferrence noted there did not seem to be a large number of revisions proposed outside of requesting the IDEAS designation. Worland added the schedule appeared to be changed from a chronological to thematic outline and the new syllabus provided a more robust topical outline and overall course description for students to look at.

Hurd and Rivadeneyra informed Council members that the course was cross-listed with the Departments of History (HIS) and Sociology and Anthropology (SOA). FCS and HIS had previously requested their respective courses be considered for the IDEAS designation. The IDEAS panel had concerns regarding the proposals and returned them to the respective departments with suggestions. Hurd and Rivadeneyra had spoken to Dr. Marla Reese-Weber, FCS chairperson, and had thought the department was going to re-submit the FCS 112 as a new course with a new number. The intent was to remove FCS 112 as a cross-listed course while leaving the HIS and SOA 112 courses active.

A motion was made by Rejack to table FCS 112 pending additional clarification from the department regarding the course number and if they wished it to remain cross-listed with HIS and SOA. White seconded.

All in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

The motion carried. Hurd will contact Dr. Reese-Weber for additional information.

Rejack made a motion to adjourn. Worland seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Soemer Simmons