

**Council on General Education Minutes**  
**October 9, 2018**  
**10-11:00 a.m., Stevenson Hall 140**

**Presiding:** Rocio Rivadeneyra

**Present:** Brian Aitken, Rebekka Darner, Carla Pohl, Rocio Rivadeneyra, Jonathan Rosenthal (proxy) Kimberly Schneider, Jean Standard, Benjamin Stiers, Gary Weilbacher, and Chris Worland

**Guests:**

Dr. Gina Hunter, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Rivadeneyra called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**Action Items:**

**1. Approval of September 11, 2018 Minutes**

The question was called. Aitken made a motion to accept the September 11, 2018 minutes. Pohl seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

**2. Approval of September 25, 2018 Minutes**

The question was called. Stiers made a motion to accept the September 25, 2018 minutes. Worland seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes were accepted.

**3. Minor in Ethnic Studies Revision**

Revisions to the minor were proposed by Dr. Susan Kalter, Director of Ethnic Studies. Due to lack of quorum at the previous meeting, the item was tabled.

At the last meeting, it was noted there were missing course approvals from several departments. In addition, Rivadeneyra noticed course discrepancies between sections 2 and 3 of the course proposal. The Council also questioned the inclusion of future decimalized instances of ENG/LAN 206, as currently, those instances do not exist. Rivadeneyra contacted Kalter regarding all three issues.

Kalter corrected the course discrepancy issues between sections 2 and 3 and submitted a revised proposal. Approvals from all relevant departments have now been received as well. Rivadeneyra spoke to Rosenthal regarding the ENG/LAN 206 decimalization and the courses were already approved so it is acceptable to leave those courses listed on the proposal.

The question was called. Pohl moved to accept the revised proposal for the Minor in Ethnic Studies. Darner seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Rivadeneyra will notify Kalter of the Council's decision.

**4. ANT 105, People and Food (proposed for SMT)**

This course was proposed by Dr. Kathryn Sampeck, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Due to lack of quorum at the previous meeting, the item was tabled.

The course was proposed for the SMT designation in General Education. At the last meeting, Council members debated if the course was a good fit for the category and if a prerequisite was required for courses within this category. Rivadeneyra reported that after some research, it was discovered if the SMT course is taken to meet the BS graduation requirement, a prerequisite is required. However, if the course is taken just to meet General Education requirements, a prerequisite is not required.

Standard questioned if a student who did not take BSC 101 prior to taking this course would be at a disadvantage with not having the science background. Hunter responded that she was not sure how to answer but pointed out other courses in the same designation category do not require prerequisites without having adverse consequences. She added that during the first revision of the General Education program, prerequisites were removed from some courses.

Darner assumed students who took BSC 101 would have an advantage over those students who did not. However, she pointed out those students who took this course would have an advantage when taking BSC 101 so it would balance out. Worland questioned the rigor of the course, specifically in regards to how deeply into scientific methods students were expected to know. Hunter knew of two textbooks planned for the course. She also knew there was a focus on nutritional anthropology and added there was quite a lot of science in regards topics including nutritional requirements, human evolution, agricultural technology and ecology.

Darner mentioned the course covered more nutritional information than BSC 101. Rivadeneyra questioned if Darner felt one course should be taken prior to the other. Darner responded no and that she felt there was plenty of science in the course to warrant the SMT designation. Hunter added that when comparing to other courses currently in General Education, Agriculture has quite a few courses that have various designations. This course has more science in it than AGR 201 which currently has the SMT designation. Aitken responded that if those members coming from a science background were comfortable with the course counting toward SMT were satisfied, he was alright with it as well.

The question was called. Rivadeneyra made a motion to accept ANT 105 for the SMT designation. Stiers seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

Rivadeneyra will notify Sampeck of the Council's decision.

## **5. Minor in Food Studies**

The proposal is for a new minor submitted by Hunter.

Rivadeneyra recalled speaking about the minor at an earlier meeting and wondered why a vote was not taken at that time. Hunter explained that Jeri Ryburn had recommended the outcome of ANT 105 be determined first as it is an optional required course for the minor.

Hunter explained to the Council the long lead up that occurred for the creation of the minor. Last spring, a semester-long seminar was offered as part of the International Seminar Series. The focus of the seminar was on food ways, food justice and sustainability. Hunter met with faculty to identify current courses in the catalog that were related to food studies. Hunter also looked at the different programs being offered, especially in Agriculture and the College of Arts and Sciences. Courses in Agriculture tended to focus more on local food systems, gastronomic and nutrition/dietetics. With the minor focusing more on food justices and sustainability, Hunter believed the minor was better related to courses/programs offered in CAS.

Hunter then met with all of the programs that would be stakeholders for the new minor. This included speaking to representatives from Family and Consumer Sciences, Agriculture, Politics and Government, and the Horticulture Center. All parties reviewed potential courses for the minor and enrollment limits were discussed and agreed upon for those oversubscribed majors such as nutrition/dietetics. Ryan Gray will be responsible for overseeing these enrollment limits. It was found that a large spread of classes would be available for the minor.

Following the meeting with internal stakeholders, Hunter met with Harriet Steinbach from the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning who assisted with arrangements so Hunter could meet with off-campus stakeholders as well. From this meeting came discussion regarding a capstone for the minor as well, as how Community Engagement could assist in the drafting of agreements with the outside stakeholders. As part of the feedback received from these stakeholders was the need for the inclusion of business or marketing courses. Following the meeting, Hunter contacted the College of Business and negotiated enrollment caps on appropriate courses to be included in the minor.

Rivadeneyra questioned why stakeholders felt a Marketing course was necessary as part of the minor. Hunter responded there are Marketing students, especially those who would like to pursue careers in the food industry, who would be interested in the minor. Hunter also added that as typical with all minors, a limited number of courses might be used to satisfy both major and the minor's requirements.

The question was called. Aitken motioned to approve the Minor in Food Studies. Pohl seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed.

## **6. Academic Senate Meeting**

Rivadeneyra informed the Council that she and Rosenthal would speak to the Academic Senate tomorrow night. The Senate had questions regarding assessment and the annual Council report that Rivadeneyra and Rosenthal will address.

## **7. General Education Assessment**

Hunter informed Council members she, Rosenthal and Derek Meyers were working on a student survey in regards to General Education. Hunter met with Meyers to look at General Education programs at other institutions and found those institutions did not have a student survey either. Darner commented that it sounded as though there is a need to get student input in regards to General Education. Hunter is working on a rough draft of the survey and will submit it to Rivadeneyra and Rosenthal for review.

Rivadeneyra noted that using the learning objectives as survey questions may be difficult, as students may not understand them. Darner suggested using phrasing such as "what extent do you feel prepared..." to help breakdown the learning objectives. Hunter added she is also looking at assessment rubrics that are a little more specific and more representative of the learning objectives. She added the survey would not be distributed to students until spring.

Darner suggested it would be beneficial for departments and faculty if a survey were sent out every fall to students. Currently, there is no mechanism to compel students to give feedback regarding General Education. However, if the survey became a regular annual event, it may generate valuable data for departments. For those majors who conduct their own surveys, questions could be mapped back to specific courses and provide additional course assessment data.

Hunter believed Meyers would be interested in pursuing this suggestion and thought it would be easy to map questions and use student data to help with further correlation. Rivadeneyra agreed the aggregate data would be useful to departments. Aitken cautioned focusing on majors specific data, as there is a lot of transition with students changing majors. Meyers currently helps University College with their assessments because of this and would know how to approach this issue. Darner added she currently uses a pre and post assessment for her BSC 101 course but many courses do not. Having a system available so departments could take advantage of authenticated results would be a substantial assessment tool.

Darner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rivadeneyra seconded.

Meeting adjourned: 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Soemer Simmons