

INSTRUCTION COUNCIL

MINUTES

Thursday, October 19, 2023

126 ITLE or Zoom

<https://okstate-edu.zoom.us/j/96284911705?pwd=bkITQk5Kc08ydC9GVXJnU2FLaTg0Zz09>

PASSCODE: 596082

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

In attendance: Laurie Beets, Larry Burns, Kyndal Campbell, Aaron Christensen, Cynda Clary, Andrew Doust, Craig Freeman, Richard Frohock, Jeff Hartman, Sunderesh Heragu, Diane Jones, James Knecht, Marlys Mason, Tammy Mix, Christine Ormsbee, Rita Peaster, Jerry Ritchey, Adrienne Sanogo, Rebecca Sheehan, Candace Thrasher and Chris Francisco, Chair.

1. General Education Reform – Tammy Mix

C. Francisco thanked the Instruction Council (IC) members for creating such a collaborative climate surrounding general education reform. He has had multiple conversations with several groups on campus and has heard the expected types of concerns, particularly from some groups of unit heads. The student survey regarding general education (GE) revealed that students do not understand the purpose of GE. C. Francisco explained that the gathering of this information required action, and he appreciates what IC has done to promote this effort. C. Francisco reminded IC members that this GE reform was a directive from President Shrum and Provost Mendez and asked IC to continue to have conversations with department heads. We need concrete steps toward altering our GE structure. Some questions to consider are:

- How are we serving students best by offering breadth requirements that make sense and align with the broader strategy?
- What really makes a GE course?
- Why is it a course that is broadly enough pitched that a significant number of students will be potentially interested in it?

Members of the General Education Working Group are as follows: Tammy Mix, Cynda Clary, Evan Davis, Kellie Ebert, Kelva Hunger, Amy Martindale, McKale Montgomery, Gina Morris, Rita Peaster, Carisa Ramming, Jay Schweig, and Brandy Thomas Wells. T. Mix, Department Head of Sociology is the Faculty Fellow of General Education Reform. She presented the GE update to IC members. For context, from January 2022 to June 2022 the GEWG (formed by nominations from deans) was tasked with evaluating the general education program. This group identified two fellow institutions (similar in size to OSU) that were doing great GE work, Purdue's Cornerstone system and Virginia Tech's Pathways system. GEWG's proposal for GE reform came from a combination of analysis of what other institutions are doing, as well as a university-wide survey of students, faculty, staff, and advisors, and engagement with alumni. They also considered the Board of Regents and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements, and what they discovered was that the premise of GE is unclear to students. They do not understand the need for GE. Our system can be fragmented, and many times students miss their GE requirements, which delays their graduation. Designations are subject based rather than learning outcomes focused. Of our 600+ GE courses over 400 are 3000 level or above. Upper level emphasis runs counter to the purpose of GE as outlined by the Regents. General Education Advisory Council (GEAC) and other related structures are overtasked. Challenges that the committee faces.

The Cowboy Compass Plan brings coherence to our current general education system by establishing outcomes based learning objectives, providing a foundation needed for specialized study and professional success, and creating cross disciplinary student cohorts. This plan recommends content in the First-Year seminar/experience course whereby various "big questions" and the Cowboy Compass Trail Systems will be introduced. Trails will be

designed using faculty expertise and drawn from OSU existing strategic plan areas, UN sustainability goals or other contemporary issues where we have faculty or department expertise. Trails would be designed for students to achieve a certificate while meeting their GE requirement.

The proposed revisions to OSU's current GE system would include the following:

- Focus, clarification and streamlining – clarify/revise designations, focus on competences and outcomes, deepen diversity and global cultures courses, enhance written, oral and visual fluencies, pare down existing GE courses.
- Building trails – big questions/grand challenges for trails, enhance first year seminary/experience, develop course rotations – with intent organize student options, add trans-, inter-, or multi-disciplinary approaches to upper division level courses, promote applied learning and high impact practices in GE course.
- Structural support – plan for a more inclusive and comprehensive university wide GE infrastructure, review and consider existing GE credit and transfer, support faculty and academic advisors, better communicate about the GE mission.

Current GE designation:

FYS – colleges or departments control – 1-2 hrs
English Comp, - 6 hrs
US History - 3
US Government - 3
Analytical and Quantitative Thought - 3
Social and Behavioral Sciences – 3
Humanities - 6
Science - 6
Diversity – 1 course
International Dimension – 1 course
Additional liberal arts and/or science courses to meet the minimum total of 40 credit hours

Recommended Cowboy Compass System:

FYS – 1-2 hrs revisions to this course – key introductory content to the Trails
English Comp – 6 hrs
US History – 3 hrs
US Government – 3 hrs
Quantitative Thought & Logical Reasoning – 3 hrs (Q formerly A)
Exploring Society & Human Behavior – 3 hrs (S)
Understanding Humanities - Human Heritage & Cultures – 6 hrs (H)
Reasoning in the Natural Sciences – 6 hrs (N)
Global Cultural Competency – 0 or 3 hrs (G formerly I) (zero if paired with another designated course)
Diversity – 0 or 3 hrs (D) (zero if paired with another designated course)
Expression Through Fine Arts & Languages – optional elective choice (F)

R. Sheehan mentioned the issue with qualitative thought, not just quantitative thought. The challenge is that we are working with Regents requirements and they have a particular quantitative focus. C. Francisco interjected that he participated in the Regents general education committee several years ago along with fellow provosts / vice provosts. They overhauled the GE requirements and submitted the new proposed requirements, but concerns among presidents of OSRHE institutions led to the effort being tabled. He has no knowledge of where progress is at this point.

Trail guideline possibility:

- Trail topics reflect big questions drawn from strategic areas, UN sustainability goals or other key contemporary issues where OSU faculty departments have expertise.
- Anticipate creating about 30 trails, built via cross disciplinary / cross college faculty expertise groups
- Trail course sets relate thematically. Each trail should include participation from at least two colleges – more if possible.
- Trails will be built initially from existing GE approved courses (note that current GE offerings may be streamlined or revised).
- All courses in a trail must have a GE designation.
- Opportunities to revise, add, and remove classes, to close down or initiate new trails, and to revise course content to meet trail intent will be available as the system is in place via the curricular approval process.
- Departments will manage/support trails with a key department contact. Faculty trail groups should identify a managing department and key contact person.

GEWG has shared these guidelines with three areas of the strategic initiative groups for feedback - Innovating to Nourish the World, Powering a Growing World Population Sustainable and Responsibly and Creating Servant-leaders and Engaged Citizens. Ideally, they are working with their university groups to see how their trails set. GEWG will then share this plan with three additional strategic areas. There will be a university-wide call for ideas for trails, hoping there will be financial support for putting together trails. C. Francisco interjected that not every GE course is required to be in a trail to get a GE designation.

The GEWG would like a decision from the Provost's office regarding the D and the G/I going to 3 hour credit requirement or one course requirement. C. Francisco would like to have significant feedback before requiring an answer from the Provost. Colleges have different approaches with how they engage with GE within their program requirements. There are programs with more flexibility than others. Students have made the request for the D and G to go to a specific credit hour course.

Changes to First Year Experience – GEWG recommended some module or content related to financial literacy, as well as all of the required information from FYE. In order for this to be an innovative revision of GE we have to encourage our first-year students to enter into the trails. We also need to have something to accommodate transfer students or students who have concurrent hours. Institutions who have adopted these kinds of strategies within 5 years have 90 percent of their incoming students participating in the trail system. Degree plans must be created with room for trails. Because everything is important there will need to be a clear priority of what is most important.

A. Sanogo stated that CEHS would like to continue to teach FYS / FYE within their own college; keep the I and D as 1 course – not 3 credit hours.

Core Concepts:

- Quantitative Thought & Logical Reasoning – 3 hrs (Q formerly A)
- Exploring Society & Human Behavior – 3 hrs (S)
- Understanding Humanities - Human Heritage & Cultures – 6 hrs (H)
- Reasoning in the Natural Sciences – 6 hrs (N)
- Global Cultural Competency – 0 or 3 hrs (G formerly I) (zero if paired with another designated course)
- Diversity – 0 or 3 hrs (D) (zero if paired with another designated course)
- Expression Through Fine Arts & Languages – optional elective choice (F)

Embedded Concepts:

- Professional Preparedness (Ideal Grad)
- Engaged Citizenship (Ideal Grad)
- Ethical Leadership (Ideal Grad)
- Personal Responsibility (Ideal Grad)
- Information and Media Literacy
- Applied and Active Learning, High Impact Practices Experiential Learning
- Ethical Reasoning, Professionalism and Ethics
- Critical Thinking and Abstract Reasoning

Streamlining current GE courses and preparing for trail building:

- How often is the course offered? Can it be offered regularly?
- Does it provide background and core skills for general student audience.
- Does the course include applied or high impact dimensions?
- Culminating courses planned at the end of the trail occurring at the 3000 and 4000 levels? Should the offer be in trans, multi or interdisciplinary approaches? Can this course meet this requirement? Which colleges would come in to collaborate? Does your department want to keep this course as an active GE offering?

- Does your department want to keep this course as an active GE offering?
- Provide 2-4 “big question” or “grand challenge” ideas

2. Certificate Programs Gainful Employment Regulations – Chad Blew – Postponed

3. FAFSA Delay for 24-25 Academic Year – Chad Blew - Postponed

4. Curriculum

1) Information Items Only:

Course Reactivation:

GEOL 2013 – Geology of the National Parks

Course Deactivation:

HIST 3073 – History of Science

HIST 3893 – History of Disease

HIST 4433 – Medievalism in the 21st Century World

2) Course Action Summaries:

Ferguson College of Agriculture - attached

Correction for BIOC 4023 – “no requirements” is an error. There are prerequisites – BIOL 1113 or BIOC 3713 or PLNT 3554

Motion was made by A. Sanogo and seconded by A. Doust to approve Ferguson College of Agriculture's course actions, and IC members approved.

College of Education and Human Sciences - attached

FFP 5663 tabled due to concerns mentioned by M. Mason.

Motion was made by M. Mason and seconded by S. Heragu to approve College of Education and Human Science course actions, with the exception of the tabled FFP 5663 course, and IC members approved.

College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology - attached

CHE 4483 and CHE 5483 tabled due to concerns mentioned by A. Doust

Motion was made by A. Doust and seconded by M. Mason to approve College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology course actions, with the exception of the tabled CHE 4483 and CHE 5483 courses, and IC members approved.

Spears School of Business Undergraduate and Graduate - attached

MKTG 4213 and MKTG 4223 tabled due to concerns with FCA and MGMT 6383 tabled due to concerns with CAS

Motion was made by A. Sanogo and seconded by C. Clary to approve Spears School of Business course actions, with the exception of the tabled MKTG 4213, MKTG 4223 and MGMT 6383 courses, and IC members approved.

College of Veterinary Medicine - attached

Motion was made by A. Sanogo and seconded by C. Clary to approve College of Veterinary Medicine course actions, and IC members approved.

Center for Health Sciences – attached

Motion was made by A. Sanogo and seconded by M. Mason to approve Center for Health Sciences course actions, and IC members approved.

3) Program Modifications (to be considered at Nov. 2 IC meeting):

College of Arts and Sciences

Environmental Studies, Undergraduate Certificate (455)

Course requirement change

- Require ENVR 1113
- Add GEOG 1022 or GEOL 1022 as alternate to GEOG 2002 or GLST 2002
- Remove GEOG 3153 and HIST 4523
- Add GEOG 4233
- Increase electives from 6 to 9 credit hours
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: To align the degree with comparable programs at other institutions.

French, Minor

Change to existing minor

- Remove FREN 2723
- Total credit hours will decrease from 24 to 21 credit hours
- Reason for requested action: Removing a barrier to student completion of the minor.

Geology, Minor

Change to existing minor

- Require minimum 2.0 GPA
- Reason for requested action: To align GPA requirements for minors in Geology and Geophysics.

Geophysics, Minor

Change to existing minor

- Add GEOL 1214 as alternate to GEOL 3413 or GEOL 1114
- Remove GEOL 4103
- Add GEOL 4443 or GEOL 2103
- Total credit hours will increase from 24 to 25 credit hours
- Reason for requested action: Updating curriculum to remove a course that is no longer offered and adding a course that will serve as the introductory course for Geology majors.

German, Minor

Change to existing minor

- Remove GRMN 2813
- Total credit hours will decrease from 24 to 21 credit hours
- Reason for requested action: Removing a course that is no longer offered.

Quantum Information Science, Undergraduate Certificate (New)

New program request

- The proposed undergraduate certificate in Quantum Information Science is requested to introduce modern developments in quantum physics and prepare students for a career in quantum information science.

College of Engineering, Architecture and Technology

Mechatronic Engineering Technology for MET Students, Minor

Change to existing minor

- Add MERO 3373
- Remove MET 4803
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: To optimize the METM curriculum.

Spears School of Business

Travel and Tourism Management, Undergraduate Certificate (308)

Course requirement change

- Remove HTM 4183
- Increase electives from 7 to 10 credit hours
- Total credit hours will not change
- Reason for requested action: To remove barriers to students completing the certificate due to course offering rotations.

5. Other

- Six Strategic Initiative Kick Off meetings have taken place. Our deans and vice presidents nominated the members of these groups, which will be operating throughout this year and making recommendations. The Provost's Office anticipates these working group members will be calling on other individuals outside the group to attend these meetings from time to time to provide information related to their specific areas.
- Faculty Fellows are developing their working groups to build their signature initiatives. Some of those initiatives will be going before the President for her decision to present to legislature / donors in the near future.
- Shannon Baker will be attending the 11-2-23 IC meeting to provide an update on the Advising Strategic Initiative. A memo from the Provost was distributed on Monday addressing our centralizing of first year advising. There will be some restructuring, but no advisors will lose their job.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30am

Minutes were recorded by K. Campbell