

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
The Undergraduate Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee

Minutes
240 SH
April 4, 2024

Attending: Cornelia Lang (chair), Jill Beckman, Asha Bhandary, Jean-François Charles, Rodica Curtu, Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Amira Qidwai, Cinda Coggins Mosher, Christine Shea, Amy Strathman

Absent: Anita Jung

1. The committee first reviewed and approved the minutes from the meetings on February 29, March 7, and March 21, 2024.
2. The committee then welcomed CLAS Academic Assessment Coordinator Matt Shadle to the meeting for several updates from the GECC.
 - a. The first item for discussion was an update on the recent visit to the GECC by members of the subcommittee of the [University's DEI Forward Task Force](#). One of the directives from the BOR was related to General Education categories that are related to topics in diversity, equity and inclusion: *Initiate a review of DEI-related general education categories and update category names to accurately reflect the array of options students may select from to satisfy these requirements and ensure a breadth of offerings*. UEPC learned that GECC strongly supports the current learning outcomes of the Diversity and Inclusion GE requirement and does not feel that much should change. Student feedback was shared that shows a strong majority of students feel that the requirement has really helped them meet the DI learning outcomes and prepared them for their other academic and co-curricular experiences. A discussion about changing the name of the requirement was also had, with an emphasis on a more active term. A suggestion was made to consider "Understanding Cultural Perspectives" as a new title for the category. The titles of other GE requirements in "Communication and Literacy" are also under consideration for renaming to be more student-centered.
 - b. The second item for discussion was an update on a conversation that GECC had recently on better communicating the value of General Education to a broad range of audiences including prospective students and their families, current students, faculty, and academic staff. There was agreement that the GE program at the University of Iowa helps students with the intangible skills that employers value, as well as the skills that students need to adapt and change as the job market changes; additionally, these courses are often among the most surprising and memorable of student's UI experience. GECC has established a series of recommendations for Associate Dean Lang (and the college as a whole) that include activities such as better marketing and branding of the GE program,

developing more information for instructors of GE courses, including an ICON site for pedagogy resources and materials to share with students, and the possibility of an “all hands” GE instructors meeting once a year. Additionally, the committee suggested engaging DUSs and DEOs in talking with majors in their departments and programs about the value of GE for students in their areas.

3. Then, the committee welcomed Erin Irish, Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Undergraduate Education/DUS, Department of Biology to discuss changes to the requirements in the Biology BA and BS programs. Overall, the changes to the BA and BS are minimal, and they slightly reduce the numbers of hours and courses students are required to complete. Changes include:
 - a. reducing course requirements so that each degree requires 19 courses;
 - b. lowering the semester hour minimum for cognate electives from 12 to 11 for the BA;
 - c. requiring only one BIOL elective rather than two for the BA; and
 - d. requiring two track elective courses for the BS rather than three.

After discussion, the committee was positive about the changes proposed.

4. Finally, Associate Dean Lang reviewed the approval of the following courses for [General Education](#) (GE) statuses in various areas.
 - a. SIED:3164 *Introduction to Global Socioscientific Challenges* (3 s.h., Natural Sciences without Lab, Fall 2024)
 - b. CLSA:2444 *Cities of the Bible* (3 s.h., Historical Perspectives, Fall 2024)
 - c. CLSA:1454 *Hebrew Bible for Everyone* (3 s.h., Values and Culture, Fall 2024)
 - d. ASIA:1005 *Scripts and Trips: A Journey Through East Asia* (3 s.h., World Language and Cultural Exploration, Fall 2024)

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Maurel-Destruel
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Secretary, UEPC