

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

**Minutes**

240 SH

January 18, 2024

*Attending:* Cornelia Lang (chair), Jill Beckman, Asha Bhandary, Jean-François Charles, Rodica Curtu, Emilie Maurel-Destruel, Anita Jung, Liz Lundberg (staff), Cinda Coggins Mosher, Amira Qidwai, Amy Strathman

*Absent:* Christine Shea

1. The committee members introduced themselves, because it was Liz Lundberg's first UEPCC meeting.
2. Associate Dean Lang reviewed the duties for appointed UEPCC positions and revisited who holds these positions. She explained that the same person does not have to hold each position for the full academic year, if anyone wants to make any changes.
  - a. The UEPCC secretary takes notes during meetings and works on minutes with Liz Lundberg; Emilie Maurel-Destruel will continue to hold this position, with other committee members filling in as needed, in case of absence.
  - b. The liaison to the Faculty Assembly Agenda Committee reports on UEPCC discussions to the Faculty Assembly. It was agreed that Christine Shea will continue to hold this position unless she wishes to step down.
  - c. The liaison to the General Education Curriculum Committee (GECC) attends GECC meetings and shares information between the two committees. Amira Qidwai has been in this role, and going forward she will share the responsibilities of this position with Jill Beckman, with them dividing the GECC meetings between them.

As part of this conversation, Associate Dean Lang provided an overview of what GECC will be working on this spring: approving proposals for CLAS Core General Education status, with the priority being the newly created World Language and Cultural Exploration (WLCE) category; receiving a report from and talking with the team involved in the assessment of the Rhetoric requirement; discussion about marketing and branding of the CLAS Core for better awareness; and receiving and discussing a report on the outcomes of the International and Global Issues assessment. Finally, there is a task force beginning to work on the charge from the Board of Regents to initiate a review of DEI-related general education requirements, and GECC will be in communication with that team as they gather data about student outcomes and the range of course options available to students.

3. The committee reviewed recommendations from GECC for approval of two courses to be added to the CLAS Core GE program for Summer 2024. Amira Qidwai presented an overview of each of the courses and summarized GECC's thoughts about each one.

- a. GRMN:1550 *German Food, History, and Culture* (GE area: WLCE)  
This course will foster understanding of German culture and language through engagement with multiple topics related to German food and drink. UEPCC unanimously supported WLCE status for this course.
  - b. SPAN:1800 *Writers and Writing in Latin America* (GE area: WLCE)  
This course has been taught before but has been revised to meet WLCE learning outcomes. Literature and authors from a wide range of countries will serve as a lens for comparative explorations of Latin American cultures. UEPCC unanimously supported WLCE status for this course.
4. The minutes from the meeting November 2, 2023 were reviewed and approved.
  5. The committee next welcomed Kendall Heitzman (Associate Professor and DEO of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures), Yumiko Nishi (Associate Professor, Director of Undergraduate Studies for Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures, and Coordinator of the Japanese Program), and Yuan Lu (Coordinator of the Chinese Program), who came to present proposed changes to the BA in Asian Languages and Literatures—Chinese Track and the Minor in Asian Languages and Literature—Chinese Emphasis.

The BA will now have a designated gateway course, CHIN:1504 *China Beyond Walls* (formerly called *Asian Humanities: China*), and it will no longer require Classical Chinese, which will bring the overall language study requirement down from nine semesters to eight, giving students more room for other types of courses. (The overall semester hours for the major will remain 30.) The changes to the minor will be more significant: fourth-year Chinese will no longer be required, which brings Chinese in line with some other language programs, like Japanese, where students earning the minor complete third-year language courses and students earning the major complete fourth-year language courses. The Minor in Asian Languages and Literature—Chinese Emphasis will allow more flexibility than the major with regard to the gateway course, but unlike the major it will not allow students to use any courses from other departments to fulfill requirements, because the minor is small enough that students will be able to take everything they need in the Asian and Slavic Languages and Literature Department.

Professor Heitzman explained that the reduction in Chinese faculty is the biggest reason for the proposed changes, but the new requirements will also encourage students to begin with the basics and feel confident as they move into more advanced material. The changes will also consolidate major and minor requirements in the department and provide more of a logic to students' options.

The committee discussed trends in enrollment in Chinese courses and programs of study and some factors affecting them, including geopolitics, the pandemic, and outreach to area primary and secondary schools. They also discussed some promising recent and upcoming developments, such as the popularity of a Japanese language course that meets at a time convenient for high school students (and the possibility that other languages could follow suit) and an upcoming WLCE course proposal that could serve as a gateway

to Chinese language and cultural study. The committee was supportive of the changes to the major and minor. They expressed that the changes are clear and well justified, and the programs are moving in a good direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Emilie Maurel-Destruel  
Associate Professor, French & Italian, Linguistics  
Secretary, UEPC