

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

Minutes
240 SH
May 2, 2024

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

Absent: Anita Jung, Christine Shea

- 1) The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from April 25.
- 2) Next the committee reviewed the proposal recommended by the GE Curriculum Committee (GECC) to grant Historical Perspectives (HP) status to RUSS:2110 *Russian Sports: Politics, Scandal, Glory*, effective Fall 2024. UEPCC agreed with GECC that this course will make a good addition to the HP category and will likely be popular with students.
- 3) Next Associate Dean Lang explained that GECC has recently approved CLSA:4901 *Biblical Hebrew I* and CLSA:4902 *Biblical Hebrew II* for GE status in World Languages First Level and Second Level respectively. Prof. Cargill in the Classics Department has taught these courses for some time, and they have not previously been considered for GE status, because students could not complete the requirement of Fourth Level Proficiency with this language at Iowa. Now that the World Languages Pathways are in place, it makes more sense to approve languages that we can only offer through two levels. UEPCC supported GECC's process and decision and agreed that these courses should be approved for World Languages First Level and Second Level.
- 4) Associate Dean Lang next explained the plan for CLAS's website migration and what GECC has been discussing regarding messaging on the new sites. There will be one site designed with more of a student audience in mind, and GECC has been working on some ideas for articulating not only the requirements of the GE program, but its value and opportunities as well, particularly in terms of how GE courses prepare students for their majors and careers. (There will also be a site designed more for an audience of instructors and departments, and there was some talk about figuring out how to organize information about GE learning outcomes, assessment processes, and proposals on that site.)
- 5) Next the committee evaluated the new International and Global Issues learning outcomes proposed by GECC. UEPCC was in favor of cutting the outcomes from four to three by taking some of the best ideas from current outcome 3 and folding them into a revised outcome 2. The committee discussed the assessment report's finding about the current outcomes to discuss why we are preserving what we are, the intents behind various phrases, and examples of assignments that achieve these outcomes. UEPCC edited the outcomes sent by GECC and approved the following:
 - 1) Students develop knowledge of one or more global or international issues.
 - 2) Students demonstrate an understanding of different international and regional perspectives on complex global issues and the reasons for these differences.
 - 3) Students know and are able to apply at least one method of analysis and critical inquiry.

- 6) Finally, Liz Lundberg (Associate Director, Curriculum and Instruction, CLAS UP) presented information on a policy governing how many courses from a single department students may apply to their GE program. The way the policy is written, students may apply no more than three courses from the same department to their GE requirements. In practice, however, this policy is not being enforced evenly across the college, because the degree audit programming cannot read courses for “department.” The audit is only grouping department subject codes within the same department (such as FREN and ITAL, and ENGL and CNW) where CLAS has asked the Registrar to program such groupings. Other departments with more than one subject code (such as the School of Art and Art History, with codes ARTS and ARTH, among others) are not being caught by the audit programming, and in theory students could fulfill more than three GE requirements with courses in one of those departments. Liz presented several possible ways to handle this uneven application of policy:
- a. Ask the Registrar to group all CLAS acronyms by their home department for GE purposes;
 - b. Go through CLAS’s subject codes and make judgment calls about which codes in the same department should be grouped, because they are similar enough to meet the spirit of this policy (for example, PHYS and ASTR), and which codes should not be grouped, because although they are in the same department, they are distinct fields (for example, HHP and SRM);
 - c. Change the policy phrasing to make it clear that the audit will be checking for no more than three GEs not “per department,” but “per department subject code.” In this case, a student would theoretically be allowed to fulfill more than three GE requirements using courses in the same department, provided they come from different acronyms. In this case, CLAS would ask the Registrar to ungroup the current groupings as well.

UEPCC supported the third option. It seems the most even application of policy across departments, it does not require anyone to make judgment calls about the relatedness or distinctness of academic fields, and it is the clearest policy for students to navigate. The committee also agreed that the GE rule should begin including Natural Sciences with and without labs in this rule. (It was originally excluded from the audit programming for this rule, because it seemed unlikely that a natural science department would offer courses in several other non-science GE areas, but as all fields become increasingly interdisciplinary, it seems more likely now.)

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary, UEPCC