

University General Education Council
February 26, 2025, 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

Present: K. Witemeyer, J. Smith, D. Kneip, S. Marshall, M. Deeg, K. Carroll, L. Reed Senter, D. Jackson, A. Pittman, A. Randrianasolo

Absent: M. Isbell

Ex-officio: E. Gumm, B. Reeves (C. Riley was absent)

Guests: C. Miertschin, D. Kennamer, S. Jones, P. Roggendorff, M. Roberson, D. Counts

The meeting began at 3:32 p.m.

- Call to order by J. Smith
- Minutes from 1/22/25

No corrections were presented, so minutes were accepted as approved.

Discussion Item

1. Study Abroad Course Sections

J. Smith – Several of these foreign language courses are offered during study abroad. Some are taught by ACU faculty, some by local adjuncts, and some at our new Valencia site might have our students joining other students at local sites. Local adjuncts teach in different ways, which can make it difficult to assess general education outcomes. We need to start thinking about this so we can give faculty consistent recommendations for how we should handle this.

D. Kneip – Having been a departmental representative for assessment, I think that assessing all sections would make sense. There are definite challenges with study abroad, so simplifying things would be helpful. J. Smith – We have had missing assessments from ACU faculty and adjunct faculty in those study abroad locations, so we know this is a challenge. In the last academic year, about 1/3 of missing reports were from study abroad courses. In the fall, that amount was even higher, especially in Cultural Literacy. K. Carroll – Do we know why this is happening? J. Smith – I worked with Mark Barneche to connect with faculty in Oxford, and the completion rate improved. In Leipzig, the courses are under contract, and we don't have direct contact with the faculty. That is not likely to change. D. Kneip – I would like to have data from all courses that are also taught residually, but if there are one-offs, I would be less concerned. So, the GER 111 I would care about, but the GLST course, I would have less concern over seeing that data. J. Smith – I, too, would be hesitant to exempt all study abroad sections in assessment. We will be talking about several of these language

courses today. Right now, we offer nearly as many of these courses abroad as we do residentially. We will need to come back and make some decisions about how we handle assessment for these study abroad sections. Paul suggested something like a survey that could be sent to all students no matter where they take the course. There are many ways we can address this, but we will need a plan as we move forward.

Action Items

2. MUSM 235 – Add to Cultural Literacy and Arts & Humanities Selection Menus

M. Roberson – I included not just the syllabus but the entire course with the learning objectives throughout. J. Smith – This course has been offered at least once and have two sections planned for the fall. M. Roberson – We've used it for Rising Scholars. We've offered it three falls in a row as a regular survey offering. Once as a special topics course. C. Miertschin – How often do courses appear in more than one menu? J. Smith – About a third of the courses overlap for these two menus. M. Roberson – Music courses tend to be on both. J. Smith – Do you feel that doing assessment for both menus is doable? M. Roberson – I believe so. It is a half-semester course, so we have extra time to complete the assessments as well.

Motion to approve by D. Kneip; seconded by K. Carroll; all in favor, motion passed.

3. GER 112 – Add to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

J. Smith – If we approve all the language items today, we will have consistency across menus. P. Roggendorff – We are seeking parity with SPAN/GER and 111/112.

A. Pittman – I'm good with moving ahead with the vote now and then reconsidering as necessary later for the study abroad piece. D. Kneip – I agree.

Council had no specific questions or concerns regarding menu fit or assessment.

4. GER 112 – Add to Cultural Literacy Selection Menu

See above.

5. SPAN 111 – Add to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

See above.

6. SPAN 112 – Add to Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

See above.

Motion to approve items 3-6 by D. Kneip; seconded by A. Pittman; all in favor, motion passed.

7. SPAN 301 – Remove From Cultural Literacy Menu

K. Carroll – Do we need those upper-level items for gen ed? P. Roggendorff – The only students typically taking those courses are students within the major or minor. L. Senter – We really need those upper-level courses for the minor. D. Kneip – Based on the email attachment, it looks like the double dipping actually doesn't affect minors, is that correct? P. Roggendorff – That is correct. J. Smith – And students would have had to take the lower-level courses before taking those upper-level courses. And students who place higher can earn credit by examination for the lower-level courses. P. Roggendorff – We have a placement test, and a student can petition for credit for the courses they skipped. D. Kneip – Would it be helpful for the occasional advanced student to have a 300-level course on the gen ed menu? P. Roggendorff – We do have the SPAN 360-379 options on the Literature and Arts & Humanities Selection menus.

8. GER 341 – Remove From Arts & Humanities Selection Menu

See discussion above.

Motion to approve items 7-8 by K. Carroll; seconded by D. Kneip; all in favor, motion passed.

9. Revise Foreign Language Literature Definitions

J. Smith – This is to clarify what will count as a Foreign Language Literature course. Our World Language courses are organized very well, which makes this easy to implement. This meets what our practice has been but clarifies that the non-survey 400-level courses do not meet this requirement. P. Roggendorff – This has been in place since before I came. In the past, we would have to make a substitution based on if it is a survey course or not. Since we know that our 300-level literature courses match what is happening in English, this made sense to spell out for clarity's sake. E. Gumm – This actually makes it easier for a student to see what the options are.

Motion to approve by A. Pittman; seconded by M. Deeg; all in favor, motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.