

LA & S Senate Minutes
Meeting of February 22, 2023

Departments represented and attending: Anthropology (Jessica Smeeks); Communication Studies (Lauren Mark); History (Heather Morrison); Philosophy (Eugene Heath); Psychology (Elizabeth Hirshorn).

Departments represented but unable to attend: English (Usha Vishnuvajjala); Political Science (Stephen Pampinella).

Departments not represented by a senator: Asian Studies; Black Studies; Communication Disorders; Digital Media & Journalism; Economics; Geography; Languages, Literatures & Cultures; Latin American, Caribbean, & Latinx Studies; Sociology; Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

The Senate considered three proposals at this (online) meeting. The first was from Communication Studies: Revision of the Existing Minor. It was agreed unanimously to approve pending an inquiry, by the Convener, to the Department Chair, Stella Deen, as to a statement on p. 2 of the proposal (that students in the minor will not “achieve ‘mastery’ of any program learning outcome”).

Asian Studies: Revision of the Existing Minor. It was agreed unanimously to approve pending an inquiry, by the Convener, to the Chair of the Program, Akira Shimada. The convener was to suggest to Professor Shimada these minor revisions:

The inclusion of a list of courses for the minor; and

An adjustment to the wording of the “10 credit requirement”: e.g. “at least 10 credits.”

Literatures & Cultures/Deaf Studies Program: A proposal for a “World Language Microcredential” of 6 - 16 credits. It was agreed unanimously to approve the proposal, pending some revisions to be reviewed by the Convener.

Language on p. 2 should make clear what the certificate offers. The Senate suggested that the language of “competency” or “proficiency” is preferable to that of “expertise” (as currently used in paragraph 1 on p. 2 and at the bottom of that page).

The Senate expressed concern about what the title of the credential would affirm. The Senate recognized, thanks to the presence of the proposers, that the final title language would come from SUNY Central. However, the Senate emphasized that the title of the credential should affirm only what is the case; in addition, language could be added to the proposal to underscore that the decision on the title may come from SUNY Central.

Re student learning outcomes, the outcome "earn[ing] a digital badge. . ." should be deleted.

In the discussion of assessment, the Senate recommended including an explanation of why the success of the program will be assessed in relation to the number of students enrolled, and the addition of a statement affirming that the assessment of particular courses will be conducted along the lines of GE or Departmental assessments.

Eugene Heath
Convener, LA & S Senate “on call”