Course Proposals

1) **PPEL 101, Ethics, Economy and Entrepreneurship**— modification of an existing course to request Tier One Individuals and Societies designation. This course was originally submitted and discussed during the Spring 2020 semester, and had been tabled at that time due to concerns that the learning outcomes and course content did not align with the requirements for T1 INDV designation. An updated syllabus was provided for review. Interested parties, both in support of the course and with concerns about the course, attended and presented to the UWGEC separately.

Guests representing the offering department at the meeting explained that the course is taught both as a dual enrollment course to high school students and as an on-campus course for current UA students, and there are significant differences in the assessments and time spent in class between the high school and UA versions of the course. Inclusion as a Gen Ed course would allow more students to try out the subject area while knowing that the course would fulfill a graduation requirement even if they don’t choose to continue in that area.

A guest at the meeting raised concerns about the course, stating that the course content is not set up to encourage critical thought, but to present a single point of view without acknowledging any others as valid. Concern was raised that the course and textbook were developed and highly influenced by private entities and inclusion in the Gen Ed curriculum would set an undesirable precedent for the University.

After presentation and discussion with both parties, the committee continued discussion about the course. Committee members agreed that while both the guests in support of the course and those with critiques about the course made interesting arguments, neither addressed the main concern of the committee -- that of whether the course meets the requirements for designation as a T1 INDV. Committee members agreed that although an updated syllabus had been provided, the updates made did not address the initial concerns the committee identified to the offering department about the course learning outcomes. The learning outcomes still do not clearly align with the T1 INDV outcomes, and the scope of the course content is still not broad enough for the T1 INDV designation as the course does not clearly avoid narrow parochialism. Given the lack of evidence showing the
course’s clear alignment with the T1 INDV outcomes and requirements, it would be difficult to approve the course for that designation.

Kim Jones made a motion to deny PPEL 101 for Tier One Individuals and Societies. Maha Nassar seconded this, and the motion passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

2) **ART 358, Creative Strategies in Visual Design**– modification of an existing Tier Two Arts course. No concerns were raised about the course content, designation, or mechanics. The syllabus provided did not indicate that the course could be offered by multiple faculty members, but the department confirmed this via email prior to the meeting.

Amy Fountain made a motion to renew ART 358 for Tier Two Arts. Brennen Feder seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

3) **ECOL 170C3, Marine Biology**– modification to an existing Tier One Natural Sciences course. Committee members noted that the Learning Outcomes section of the syllabus needs to be updated to read as measurable statements indicating what students should be able to do upon completing the course. Additionally, the syllabus does not clearly indicate how the writing requirements will be met- more information on total pages of writing required, and a required revision element, need to be included. The syllabus doesn’t clearly indicate how 40% of grade points will be completed by the 8th week of classes. Information Literacy and Honors accommodations also need to be more clearly indicated.

Steve Kortenkamp made a motion to table ECOL 170C3 and request an updated syllabus per the concerns noted above. Kyle DiRoberto seconded this, and the motion unanimously passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

4) **HIST 252, Women's Work: Paid & Unpaid, Past & Present**– new for T2 Individuals and Societies. Committee members noted that although the syllabus indicates the maximum total writing, the minimum also needs to be listed to ensure compliance with Gen Ed requirements. Committee members also discussed the description of the writing assignments which prohibits students from considering texts not assigned for the course; members agreed that it would be best to re-word this section if the intent is to ensure that students interpret the assignment as a direct response to a specific text. The current wording appears to discourage students from doing additional research on a topic that interests them, which would be in opposition to the General Education outcome of understanding and valuing differences. Additional notes on minor recommended adjustments to syllabus elements were identified to be provided to the instructor, though these will not be required for approval.

Kim Jones made a motion to conditionally approve HIST 252 for Tier 2 Individuals and Societies, pending updates to the syllabus as noted above. Amy Fountain seconded this, and the motion passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

5) **HIST 309, Banned Histories of Censorship in the Americas**– new for Tier 2 Humanities. Committee members had no concerns about course content or mechanics, but noted that the total amount of writing required, 27 pages, is on the high end of the spectrum for General Education courses. They agreed that the instructor should be notified of this, as it may affect the number of students the course will attract, but that it should not prevent approval of the course.

Kim Jones made a motion to approve HIST 309 for Tier Two Humanities. Larry Busbea seconded this, and the motion passed with 15 votes in favor and 4 abstentions.
6) **LAW 150C1, Introduction to U.S. Legal Systems**— new for Tier 1 Individuals & Societies. Committee members had no concerns about course content or designation, but noted that the syllabus did not include a reading list, which would help confirm the designation of the course. Additionally, the syllabus indicated required field trip activities for students completing an honors contract; committee members noted this is an atypical requirement for honors contracts, and requested that the instructor ensure that there would be no-cost opportunities for students to complete the honors contract.

   Tanya Quist made a motion to conditionally approve LAW 150C1 for Tier One Individuals and Societies, pending updates to the syllabus as noted above. Mark Stegeman seconded this, and the motion passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

7) **PHP 150C, Aging – Everyone is Doing It!**— new for Tier 1 Individuals & Societies. The committee noted that the Learning Outcomes provided on the syllabus appeared to be a mixture of both Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives; these should be split into two distinct sections. The course otherwise is ready for approval, though committee members felt the course description could be more detailed and the Information Literacy frames could be more clearly addressed on the syllabus.

   Steve Kortenkamp made a motion to conditionally approve PHP 150C for Tier One Individuals and Societies, pending updates to the syllabus as noted above. Larry Busbea seconded this, and the motion passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

8) **PLS 170C2, Introductory Biotechnology**— modification to an existing Tier One Natural Sciences course. Committee members had no concerns about course content or mechanics, but noted that the syllabus did not include a reading list, which would help confirm the designation of the course. The course description presents a biased point of view about the benefits of biotechnology, but it seems implicit that the course will address both rewards and risks.

   Kim Jones made a motion to conditionally renew PLS 170C2 for Tier One Natural Sciences, pending receipt of a reading list as noted above. Tanya Quist seconded this, and the motion passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.

9) **RELI 160D7, Introduction to Global Christianities**— new for Tier 1 Traditions and Cultures. The committee had no concerns about course mechanics or designation. Committee members noted that the course content seemed incomplete, as the Middle East was not included as one of the regions covered. The committee agreed that inclusion of the Middle East should be strongly recommended to the instructor, given its relevance to both the history and current practice of Christianity, but that this would be a recommendation only, and not a prerequisite for designation as a T1 TRAD course.

   Maha Nassar made a motion to approve RELI 160D7 for Tier One Traditions and Cultures, with a recommendation to include the Middle East as one of the regions discussed during the course. Matt Ostermeyer seconded this, and the motion passed with 17 votes in favor and 2 abstentions.

10) **RELI 360, Religion and Ecology**— modification to an existing Tier 2 Individuals and Societies and Diversity Emphasis course. Committee members had no concerns about course content, designation, or mechanics.

   Larry Busbea made a motion to renew RELI 360 for Tier Two Individuals and Societies and Diversity Emphasis. Ted Laetsch seconded this, and the motion passed with 16 votes in favor and 3 abstentions.
Joan adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Abbie Sorg, 10/5/20