

Discovery Committee Minutes September 9th, 2026 (Teams)

Present: Nicoletta Gullace (Chair), Anna Wainwright, Sarah Prescott, Forrest Schwartz, Meaghan Dittrich, Gregory McMahon, Kathrine Aydelott, Timothy Montminy, Qi Zhang, Steve Neer, Christina Ortmeier-Hooper, Ermira Zifla, Susan Wager, Catherine Peebles

Absent: Matthew MacManes, Kenneth Mitchell

Welcome

The chair began the meeting with welcome committee members and doing introductions.

Action Items

1. Approval of the Minutes from the May 13th meeting.
Vote: Yes: 3 No: 0 Abstain: 6. **Minutes Approved.**
2. Student Petitions.
 - a. Petition to allow University of Dublin experience to satisfy Discovery World Cultuers requirements.
Vote: Yes: 8 No: 0 Ab: 1. **Petition Approved.**
 - b. Petition to allow OSU Spanish II to satisfy Discovery Social Science requirement.
Vote: Yes: 0 No: 9 Ab: 0. **Petition Denied.**
 - c. Petition to allow HSTY 1089 from the University of Sydney to satisfy Discovery Historical Perspective requirements.
Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0 Ab: 0. **Petition Approved.**
 - d. Petition to allow ART 180 Art History I from the University of Florence to satisfy Discovery Fine and Performing Arts requirements.
Vote: Yes: 9 No: 0 Ab: 0. **Petition Approved.**

Updates and Discussions

1. **New Course Proposal deadlines for 2027/2028-** Traditionally new course proposals must be submitted to the Provost Office by February 1st. This year's courses need to be at the provost level by December 1st. For Discovery proposed courses, the committee will need to review them by November 17th meeting so they can be forwarded properly and meet the December 1st timeline.
 - a. The Registrar representative shared that 2027 is a heavy year of testing data in Workday. They shared that an exception to these restrictions is if the university moves to the new General Education program, which is hoped to be implemented by Fall of 2028.
 - b. The Director for ENG 401 representative asked what the timeline is for certain 900 level courses that they offer. The registrar rep shared that December 1st to have the courses reactivated for the Fall semester.
2. **General Education Summer Working Group-** Some members of the Discovery Committee and Faculty Senate Agenda Committee met over the summer to map the old

Discovery courses to the new categories in the general education program. There will likely be plenty of seats if the colleges continue to fund the seats and ensure general education is being staffed. The Academic Programs Committee will continue the work from the summer and develop “guardrails” for the program.

- a. The COLSA rep shared over the summer; substantial work was completed to map existing courses into the new General Education categories, including aligning courses with newly created requirements such as civics. It was shared that the Faculty Senate faces significant pressure to finalize the Gen Ed revisions and approve the SLOs this year. If progress stalls, the Provost’s Office may take over the process and implement changes, making this a particularly challenging semester.
- b. A CHHS rep asked where the Inquiry courses fell into the mapping? The chair shared most inquiry courses already had category designations and were easily mapped into the new General Education structure; only a small number of courses will require departments to decide whether they should count toward Gen Ed requirements or remain major-specific courses. The inquiry changes are generally manageable because many inquiry labs will still remain in the Discovery program, making this transition less complicated than the work of reassigning ETS courses.
- c. The CHHS rep asked about the inquiry courses that do not have an attribute attached as some people from their department are wondering what will happen to those courses? The chair shared that some inquiry courses without a direct attribute may have already been mapped over the summer and if they are not reassigned faculty members will have the opportunity to go through CIM to propose the course.
- d. An honors college rep asked for an overview of the new general education framework. The Chair reviewed the new framework.
- e. A COLA rep asked about the human creativity expression and design category of the new framework. They wondered if anything in the communications department would automatically fit in this category? The chair shared departments will need to submit courses to have them count toward the new curriculum. Because all students must complete certain categories, departments may benefit from placing courses in those high-demand areas. Unlike the previous Discovery curriculum, the new curriculum is intended to include more upper-division courses as well as lower-division ones. Courses approved for the Human Creativity and Design category may attract more enrollment since every student must take on that requirement.
- f. A COLSA rep shared that with the new framework a course is not going to be able to carry multiple attributes.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40pm.