

**Civics Literacy Proficiency Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 25, 2022**  
**LB 211 (Honors Center) - 3:00pm**

Present: Stacy Betz (ex officio, nonvoting), Chris Huang (ex officio, nonvoting), Debrah Huffman, Michelle Kelsey; James Velez (ex officio, nonvoting)

Guest: Michele Shawver

1. Call to order
2. Approval of agenda
3. Welcome and introduction of subcommittee members
  - Stacy Betz (ex officio), chair – Voting in the event of a tie
  - Chris Huang (ex officio, nonvoting)
  - Debrah Huffman, 2022-25
  - Michelle Kelsey, 2022-25
  - James Velez (ex officio, nonvoting)

Michele Shawver – huge support (not a subcommittee member)

4. Review of Civics Literacy requirements – Reviewed the Civics Literacy requirements and Brightspace site
  - Civics Knowledge Test – required of all students
  - Approved Course Pathway **or** Events/Recordings Pathway – students choose one
  - Brightspace site and use with freshmen success courses- instructors can choose to incentivize students to complete the requirements
5. Clarification of the minimum grade needed for the Approved Course Pathway.
  - The senate document reads: “Students choosing this path will have to pass one of the approved courses.” This statement is vague because passing has two possible interpretations: C- or D-. The subcommittee should clarify this criterion.

Discussion focused on the benefits of using a C- as passing. These include:

- If the student takes the course to also meet a General Education requirement they will need a C- or higher for that requirement. Having two different standards might get confusing.
- If students only aim for a D- they might not put forth much effort which can lead to difficulties having engaging course discussions, etc. which would negatively impact other students and the instructor.
- A D- would be a very low bar. If we want the civics literacy requirements to mean something a C- seems reasonable.

A vote was taken 2-0 in favor of making the minimum passing grade a C-.

6. Discussion of subcommittee work/interests
  - Recordings – approval of recordings
    - i. Now (the first 4). There are currently two recordings ready to go for students to listen to (The topics are The Filibuster and Redistricting). These were identified by the Civics Literacy Working Group during Summer 2022 as appropriate for Civics Literacy events. Because this Subcommittee was not yet meeting, it was not possible

to approve these two recordings formally, but they needed to be prepared for students to have access to early in fall semester.

- ii. In future semesters. One of the responsibilities of the subcommittee moving forward should be approving recordings as meeting civics literacy requirements. Two more recordings will be identified and voted on by the Subcommittee so students will have access to the minimum number of recordings needed soon.
- Events – approval of events
    - i. Now (Wells, Woodruff, Steele). These three events were identified as possible civics literacy events. All three events were approved with a vote of 2-0.

George Takei, another Omnibus Speaker, might also be appropriate. The Subcommittee will request more details on his talk and vote on this event later (date of event is in Spring)

James mentioned that his office has a Program Guide with all planned student events and some speakers might fit with civics literacy. He also mentioned there is a set of speakers his office selects from that are targeted toward college students. Those might be sources for new events.

- ii. Senate recommendation for Constitution Day events – September 17. This was a recommendation of the senate but too late to do any dedicated events this year.
  - iii. Senate recommendation for an event for the public. This year there are multiple Omnibus Speakers who will count as a Civics Literacy event and the public is also invited.
  - iv. Senate recommendation for an event for K-12 students to also attend. This is a recommendation the subcommittee will need to consider in future meetings to decide if such an event is possible this year.
  - v. Other future events
- Approval of courses for the Approved Course Pathway (for future catalog years) – mentioned as another future subcommittee responsibility
  - Assessment of civics literacy program – mentioned as another future subcommittee responsibility
  - Promoting Civics Literacy on campus – mentioned as another subcommittee responsibility
7. Election of 2 new members
    - Must be voting faculty or lecturers/senior lecturers not from COLA and not both from the same unit. Subcommittee members identified a few potential new members who will be asked to join the subcommittee.
  8. Select dates/frequency of regular meetings – will wait to schedule until new members are selected

There was discussion of the budget for Civics Literacy Events. The Subcommittee will request a formal budget. SGA might also be able to assist with some events.

9. Adjourned at approximately 4:10

**Civics Literacy Proficiency Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes – September 29, 2022**  
**LB 112 - 11:00am**

Present: Chris Huang, Deb Huffman, James Velez, Michelle Kelsey, Stacy Betz

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from 8/25/22 meeting – approved by consensus
3. Approval of agenda
4. Welcome to the possible new subcommittee members
  - Joe Ohlinger
  - Kim O’Connor
5. Update on clarification of the minimum grade needed for the Approved Course Pathway.
  - EPC passed the proposal to clarify passing as a C-
6. Update on student progress to date (see second page)
  - Joe said pass rate for education students on their standardized test the first time for social studies is about 60%ish which is comparable to what we see on the civics exam
7. Possible new recording
  - D. Wells event was recorded: will post after the election is over
  - Reflections regarding recordings: require to get more data on how engaged students are and if there isn’t any requirement students will just skip doing it
8. Possible future events
  - Jeff Maurer (Oct 7): If we record, will not post until after the election is over
  - Jeff Malanson (Nov 7): approved 2-0 to allow a talk with this topic to count as a civics event
    - Voting, representation, and the Constitution. It would be historically focused, helping students understand the origins and implications of our current political system.
  - George Takei (April 25): will ask Marketing for more info on the specific topic before deciding if it should count as a civics event
    - From a childhood spent with his family wrongfully imprisoned in Japanese American internment camps during World War II to becoming one of the country’s leading figures in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ+ rights and marriage equality, Takei remains a powerful voice on issues ranging from politics to pop culture.
    - Takei has served as the spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign’s Coming Out Project and was cultural affairs chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League. He is also chairman emeritus and a trustee of the Japanese American National Museum. He was appointed to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission by former President Bill Clinton, and the government of Japan awarded Takei the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, for his contribution to US-Japanese relations.
9. Updates from the system wide civics literacy meeting
  - How credit for part of the civics literacy requirements will transfer between Purdue campuses
  - Criteria for the events/recordings pathway

- Other types of events besides talks about be attendance at governance meetings, a theatre production focused on civics, sitting in on court cases, tour of the State House, meeting with legislators, meet with someone from the Commission on Higher Education

10. Possible K-12 event in the spring

- Voted 2-0 to not have an event like this this year. This would be too much to plan given the work needed to get the required events/recordings and test set up this year.

11. Discussion of ideas for future events/recordings and whether they should be approved

- Attendance at governance meetings
- Military credit

12. Adjourned at 11:55

## Civics Literacy Completion Status as of 9/29/22

### Civics Knowledge Test

	# Taking	# Passing	% Passing	
Practice	160	94	59%	Total attempts = 214
Attempt 1	47	21	45%	
Attempt 2	8	5	63%	
Attempt 3	3	2	67%	

### Events/Recordings Completed

	# Completed
Event/Recording 1	42
Event/Recording 2	25
Event/Recording 3	8
Event/Recording 4	0

### Events/Recordings Details

	# Attended	# Completed
Woodruff Event	14	11
Wells Event	17	9
Filibuster Recording	N/A	26
Redistricting Recording	N/A	23
Nominating Candidates Recording	N/A	6

**Civics Literacy Proficiency Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2022**  
**LB 112 - 11:00am**

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from 9/29/22 meeting – will send via email
3. Approval of agenda
4. Update on student progress to date (see second page)
5. Student engagement with recordings and events
  - Ideas to increase participation at events: food, post flyers in resident halls
  - Get “heavy hitters” in the political scene to speak, follow up to midterm elections; previous campaign managers might speak; include speakers from the range of political viewpoints
  - See if there are ways to connect to the passport events for business students, get honors students involved
  - Send flyers to lead advisors, plan events for when lead advisors meet with students
6. Recording possibilities
  - Constitutional Convention for amendments
  - Jeff Malanson – change from a possible fall event
7. Event Possibilities
  - Invited speakers for spring 2023
  - Military Credit
  - Ideas discussed in the meeting
    - Courthouse tour/sit in on a case followed by discussion with a judge/attorney
    - Have a hot topics series one per semester; layer onto the omnibus speakers
    - Ask SGE What they would like to see
    - Ask if students could attend a PWL or PNW event for credit
    - Health and human services are having dept conversations about citizenship exam, student might be interested in that and work with immigrants
    - Stream city council meetings then discuss with a political science faculty member
    - COM 210 has to do a campus wide event; it could possibly be a civics event
8. Approved courses
  - Possible request for a new course Politics in Theatre, Film, and Television from Mark Ridgeway (Theatre)
9. Updates from the system wide civics literacy meeting
  - Transferring credit from one Purdue campus to another
  - Approving a list of approved courses each semester
  - What is allowable as an event
10. Adjourned at 11:52

## Civics Literacy Completion Status as of 11/10/22

### All Requirements Completed

	# Completed
All Requirements	5

### Civics Knowledge Test

	# Taking	# Passing	% Passing	
Practice				
Attempt 1	82	35	43	
Attempt 2	23	10	43	
Attempt 3	9	5	56	
Completed		50		

### Events/Recordings Completed

	# Completed
Event/Recording 1	107
Event/Recording 2	54
Event/Recording 3	37
Event/Recording 4	18

### Events/Recordings Details

	# Attended	# Completed
Woodruff Event	15	13
Wells Event	17	12
Maurer Event	118	52
Steele Event	19	11
Filibuster Recording	N/A	53
Redistricting Recording	N/A	44
Nominating Candidates Recording	N/A	33

**Civics Literacy Proficiency Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 15, 2023**  
**LB 112 - 9:00am**

Present: Chris Huang, James Velez, Kim O'Connor, Michelle Kelsey, Stacy Betz

Absent: Deb Huffman, Joe Ohlinger

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from 11/10/22 meetings – not voted on
3. Approval of agenda
4. Update on student progress to date (see second page)
5. Updates from the system wide civics literacy meeting
  - What constitutes an event? Must be “Purdue sponsored”; some debate over whether it could be off-campus
  - How will new courses be added to the approved list? Additions by Sept 2 each year to then get BOT approval
6. Discussion and vote on possible events for spring:
  - George Takei – Omnibus Lecture April 25 7:30

- No additional information is available from marketing about the event other than the description of the talk post on the Omnibus website. The topic includes some content related to civics.

Vote to Approve this event: 3 for and 0 against and 0 abstain

Note that during the meeting we only had 2 voting members and the chair who is voting in the event of a tie only. We weren't sure if voting to allow for quorum was allowed. The chair noted their vote as for in case it could be allowed. After the meeting, senate confirmed the subcommittee chair can vote to establish quorum. Also, post meeting the 2 additional voting members voted for this motion via email.

- COLA Lecture: How Trump and the Christian Right Saved LGBTI Human Rights: A Religious Freedom Mystery
  - Submitted for consideration by S. Roberts
  - Discussion of the submitted request as well as additional information Michelle had regarding the talk.

Vote to Approve this event: 3 for and 0 against and 0 abstain

Note that during the meeting we only had 2 voting members and the chair who is voting in the event of a tie only. We weren't sure if voting to allow for quorum was allowed. The chair noted their vote as for in case it could be allowed. After the meeting, senate confirmed the subcommittee chair can vote to establish quorum. Also, post meeting the 2 additional voting members voted for this motion via email.

- Military Service
  - Submitted for consideration by Terri Swim

- Discussion of whether to allow military credit. Consensus was this seems appropriate. Stacy will pursue with the system wide group to see if it would be allowed as it does not fit into the “Purdue sponsored event” description of what counts as a civics event.
- HR Town Hall (February 15) on freedom of expression and what it means in our environment
  - Members will attend/watch the recording to later decide if it should count as a recording
- Tour of courthouse and discussion with attorney/judge
  - The system wide group approved us pursuing this to see how it goes.

7. Recording possibilities

- D. Wells recording – not going to use
- Need more recordings

8. Plans for Civics Knowledge Test

- In person text offerings this semester
- Coordinate with NSO/welcome to campus events
- Discussed suggestions to have the Honors Seminar prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> week of classes take the exam. Also to ask if the IDIS classes would include it as part of their requirements.

9. Update on Civics Literacy website

10. Follow Civics Literacy on social media

11. Plans for event/s for Constitution Day September 17, 2023 (which is a Sunday) – ran out of time to discuss

12. Future Meetings: Decided to meet Wed March 22 12-1 and Wed April 26 12-1

13. Adjourn at 10:00

## George Takei: “Where No Story Has Gone Before: An Evening with George Takei”

George Takei is known around the world for his role in the acclaimed original TV series *Star Trek*, in which he played Hikaru Sulu, helmsman of the starship Enterprise. But Takei’s story, which includes an acting career that spans six decades, goes where few have gone before. From a childhood spent with his family wrongfully imprisoned in Japanese American internment camps during World War II to becoming one of the country’s leading figures in the fight for social justice, LGBTQ+ rights and marriage equality, Takei remains a powerful voice on issues ranging from politics to pop culture.

Takei hosts the AARP-produced YouTube series *Takei’s Take*, exploring the world of technology, trends, current events, and pop culture and is the subject of the documentary *To Be Takei*. On his own YouTube channel, Takei and his husband, Brad Takei, bring viewers into their personal lives in the “heightened reality” web series *It Takeis Two*. He was a series regular in the second season of Ridley Scott’s anthology drama *The Terror: Infamy*, which premiered on AMC in August 2019.

His rich baritone has provided narration for the PBS series *The National Parks: America’s Best Idea*, the Peabody Award-winning radio documentary *Crossing East*, and *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, which garnered Takei a Grammy Award nomination for Best Spoken Word Album. He has also done voice-over work for hundreds of video games, commercials, films and TV series.

Takei’s acting credits include costarring in five *Star Trek* movies and appearances on such TV series as *Fresh Off the Boat*, *Supah Ninjas*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *The New Normal*, *The Big Bang Theory*, *Heroes*, *Psych*, *Will & Grace*, *Miami Vice*, *MacGyver*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *Mission: Impossible*, and *The Twilight Zone*, among numerous others. Takei is the author of four books, including his autobiography, *To the Stars*. His fifth book, the *New York Times* best-selling graphic memoir *They Called Us Enemy*, was released in July 2019.

Takei has served as the spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign’s Coming Out Project and was cultural affairs chairman of the Japanese American Citizens League. He is also chairman emeritus and a trustee of the Japanese American National Museum. He was appointed to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission by former President Bill Clinton, and the government of Japan awarded Takei the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, for his contribution to US-Japanese relations.

Takei received both bachelor and master of arts degrees from UCLA. In June 2019, He received the Distinguished Alumni Award in Theater from the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television.

**Civics Literacy Proficiency Subcommittee**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 22, 2023**  
**LB 112 - 12:00pm**

Present: Chris Huang, Joe Ohlinger, Kim O'Connor, Michelle Kelsey, Stacy Betz

Absent: Deb Huffman, James Velez

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes from 2/15/23 meeting – approved by consensus
3. Approval of agenda
4. Updates from the system wide civics literacy meeting
  - The last system wide meeting was cancelled. A follow up request was sent to ask about military service. The initial reaction was this would be a different path toward meeting the requirement not a possibility within the events/recordings pathway. This type of change would need to be approved by the BOT.
5. Recording possibilities
  - Jeff Malanson and Georgia Wralstad Ulmschneider have expressed interest in creating a recording, but not set plans yet
6. Plans for event/s for Constitution Day September 17, 2023 (which is a Sunday)
  - Possible collaboration with the Chapman Scholars to assist in planning. The scholars need a set number of hours of civic engagement. Planning events like this could count.
  - Possible ideas for events:
    - Week long events focused on how to be a good citizen
      1. Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring
      2. Community service
      3. Marteze has some training on civility
      4. Recycling
    - A “carnival” type event with multiple events to help them pass the civics test with games and student groups answering civics type questions
    - Focus on civil discourse and debate, having engagement with difficult debate and deliberation
      1. Have a workshop with different tables of students engaged in discussion
      2. Pull in faculty from courses that meet the civics requirements to lead discussions
      3. NPR had a segment on not debating but having conversations with each other without getting polarized
      4. A fishbowl discussion where students watch others having a civil debate and then discussion afterwards about what made that a civil interaction
      5. DEI has a civility and beyond event. We could see if it would count as a civics event (might not be Constitution Day).
    - Focus Constitution Day event/s on celebrating the signing and the why and why important now
    - Conversation about the US founding and discuss how we teach US history, find people on campus to speak who have different views on how to teach/frame history
    - Give out free copies of the Constitution again
    - Have a voter registration table. Could have info about history of voting rights
    - In the Walb hallway or skybridge have a timeline of historical events
    - Have food at events to encourage students to attend

1. Rent the popcorn maker – the smell can entice students to see what’s going on
  - If not many students are attending events, do just one event
  - If we have a lot of students attend, we want them to interact with each other
  - Chris offered to help put together info for a timeline. Michele said the Chapman Scholars could also help.
  - Students tend to avoid debating because it’s difficult. Use data and collective problems to lead students to debate/discuss civilly without avoiding difficult topics. Can like to the founders/Constitution Day and debate.
- Summary of possible event ideas for Constitution Day:
  - Have one formal talk focused on civil debate/discussion
  - Have a voter registration drive
  - Create and post a historical timeline related to the Constitution

7. Future Meeting: Wed April 26 12-1

8. Adjourn