**FHSU Liberal Education Committee**

**Minutes**

Meeting Called by

Shala Mills, Chair

Date: Tuesday 10/20/2016

Time: 3:00-4:00

Location: Rarick 312

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Bradley Will (AHSS)

Dmitry Gimon (BE)

Jessica Heronemus (BE)

Kevin Splichal (Ed)

Teresa Woods (Ed)

Glen McNeil (HBS)

Tanya Smith (HBS)

William Weber (STM)

Tom Schafer (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Helen Miles (Senate)

Megan Garcia (SGA)

Cody Scheck (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Kenton Russell (Provost)

Chapman Rackaway (Grad Sch)

3:08 Meeting began. All members present except for Duffy, Garcia, Hartman, Russell, Scheck, Smith, and Splichal. Drabkin was serving as proxy for Duffy and Smith, Heronemus for Hartman, Rackaway for Russell, and Will for Shafer. Established that a quorum was met.

3:09 Re. things to study (13 minutes): Chair announced that it is important for the committee to become on-campus experts on general education and assessment, and presented the committee with several handouts:

* the 3 goals and 12 objectives of our proposed liberal education proposal (1 page)
* a S.W.O.T. (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis of our current general education program, done by the college deans and representatives from academic advising (5 pages)
* an AAC&U handout reporting survey data on the apparent value to students of e-portfolios (1 page)
* a chart comparing five different direct assessment techniques (1 page)
* 4 selections from the AAC&U book, *General Education Essentials* by Paul Handstedt (Wiley, 2012):
  + from the Introduction, the section “General Education and its Relation to the Major” (5 pages)
  + from the chapter “Structuring General Education,” the section “Distinguishing Interdisciplinarity and Integration” (11 pages)
  + the chapter, “Some Examples of Integrative Curricular Models” (17 pages)
  + from the chapter “The Chapter You May Want to Skip: Institutional Assessment and General Education,” the four last sections (7 pages)

3:22 Re. bringing in outside help (3 minutes): Heronemus asked if it would not be a good idea to bring in someone from Portland State University who is familiar with their innovative liberal education program. This could be in the flesh or through an online connection like Skype. This seemed to the committee like a good idea. No action was taken.

3:25 Re. backwards curricular design (10 minutes): Woods explained that this approach has three steps:

1. identify desired results (objectives)
2. identify what this “looks like” (assessable outcomes)
3. design activities that are likely to give rise to these assessable outcomes (curriculum)

3:35 Re. the S.W.O.T. analysis (31 minutes): A wide-ranging discussion ensued. Rackaway noted that, in some cases, the same things are identified as strengths and weaknesses. Will noted that, whatever curriculum the committee ends up devising, the committee must not lose sight of the importance of students being able to transfer into the program with credit. Woods suggested that the committee could consider evaluating transfer credit in terms of objectives, not courses. McNeil thought that, in the end, evaluating credits will end up coming back to courses. Heronemus observed that Portland State had to deal with working transfer credits into their innovative program. Chair thought that the bigger problem may be in transferring out of our program (explaining what our courses achieve) than accepting transfers from without. Chair also noted that FHSU has multiple general education programs, with different requirements for the B.A., the B.G.S. for international students, for associate degree transfers, etc.; do we want a single general education program or multiple programs?

4:06 In addition to the 8 handouts above, the Chair drew the committee’s attention to three sets of PowerPoint slides which have been posted to the committee’s BlackBoard site. See links under “ppts for next week” under “Announcements”:

* “Assessing General Education,” which summarize a book by Mary J. Allen.
* “DQP Implications for Assessment”
* “GEMs: General Education Maps and Markers”

4:10 Meeting ended. The next meeting is scheduled for 3:00 PM on Tuesday, October 25.

**Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary**