

# FHSU General Education Committee

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## Minutes

### Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

**Date:** Thursday April 23, 2020

**Time:** 3:30-5:00

**Location:** cyberspace

### Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Marcella Marez (AHSS)

Jessica Heronemus (BE)

David Schmidt (BE)

Sarah Broman Miller (Ed)

Phillip Olt (Ed)

Trey Hill (HBS)

Glen McNeil (HBS)

Joe Chretien (STM)

Lanee Young (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Helen Miles (Senate)

Michael Musgrove (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Tanya Smith (Grad Sch)

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3:32 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Chretien, Hill, and Musgrove. Kelly Hoving (Forsyth Library), Deborah Ludwig (Forsyth Library), Kevin Splichal (Faculty Senate), and Angela Walters (Informatics) were also in attendance. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:33 (4 minutes) The committee considered and unanimously approved a resolution recommending that Academic Council meet soon to eliminate the undergraduate university degree requirement that students take three credit hours of upper-division interdisciplinary courses. See Appendix below for the wording of this resolution; the phrase **in red** was added today.

3:37 (18 minutes) The committee considered and unanimously approved a proposal from Forsyth Library for an as-of-yet-not-numbered IDS course titled "Information Literacy" to satisfy the outcomes for objective 1.4: information literacy. This approval is conditional upon some changes being made to the CORE rubric: in particular, a recasting of the "students will demonstrate" language. We will see and approve a revision of the rubric before sending the proposal on to academic affairs.

3:55 (26 minutes) The committee considered and unanimously approved a proposal from Informatics for INF 101: Introduction to Computer Information Systems to satisfy the outcomes for objective 1.3: computing literacy. This approval is conditional upon two things: (1) that it be made clear in the proposal that the class is to meet three times a week, one of the meetings being a lab; and (2) as with the information literacy course, that the "students will

demonstrate" language be made more concrete. We will see and approve a revision of the proposal and rubric before sending it on to academic affairs.

4:21 (15 minutes) Chair proposed summertime meetings -- unofficial, with optional attendance -- for meeting with faculty members working over the summer on CORE proposals. Committee members were not opposed to the idea.

4:36 (19 minutes) Young, Olt, and Drabkin reported on their subcommittee's meeting Tuesday with the three members of the faculty advisory panel for the natural science mode of inquiry (objective 2.1D). The upshot is that the advisory panel agreed to formulate a definition of "natural science" as they understand it, as distinct from other empirical modes of inquiry making use of scientific method. This definition is something that could be shared with departments interested in proposing natural science mode of inquiry courses, and it could serve as a basis for giving useful feedback to departments proposing courses of this sort.

4:55 Meeting ended. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 30 in cyberspace.

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



### ***Appendix:***

The General Education Committee recognizes that the requirement that students must complete “three credits of approved upper-division interdisciplinary studies (IDS) courses” is an Undergraduate University Degree Requirement, and therefore, not under the purview of the General Education Committee. However, having spent many hours discussing and debating courses that ought to be generally required of undergraduate students at Fort Hays State University, the General Education Committee has concluded that 3 credits of upper-division interdisciplinary studies (IDS) courses should be removed from Undergraduate University Degree Requirements. We, therefore, respectfully ask that Academic Council **meet soon to** consider eliminating this Degree Requirement for the following reasons:

1. As departments revise their degree programs to meet the KBOR limit of 120 credit hours, they are uncertain about whether to include the upper-division IDS courses as a requirement.
2. The requirement specifies a type of course (upper-division interdisciplinary studies), but the requirement (or any other university policy) fails to identify the content or possible learning outcomes for these courses. If the University requires students to complete courses, then the requirement should clearly articulate objectives or learning outcomes so that both students and faculty understand what students are expected to achieve in the courses.
3. The General Education Committee expects that many of the current upper-division IDS courses will be revised to address FHSU CORE outcomes sets, such as 3.3 Engaged Global Citizens.

Because of the complexities surrounding the timing of elimination of the requirement, the General Education Committee does **not** recommend that Academic Council eliminate this policy effective immediately. However, we do ask that Academic Council notify departments as to whether the requirement will be eliminated or retained for students on the FHSU CORE gen-ed program.