

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday April 9, 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)

3:30 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Heronemus, Hill, and Musgrove.¹ Pam Greenleaf, Jessica Johnson, and Steve Sedbrook, all from Health and Human Performance, were also in attendance. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:31 (82 minutes) The meeting was spent in conversation with members of the Department of Health and Human Performance regarding a revision of their proposal for HHP 230: Principles of Nutrition to satisfy the outcomes for objective 2.1D: natural science mode of inquiry. This meeting was not for evaluating the proposal in any sort of official way. That will occur after the faculty advisory panel for these outcomes has thought through the revised proposal. Questions considered included: Who would be taking this course? Would this be a good course for someone to take if it were the only natural science course they were to take in college? How can the assignment and rubric for outcome 2.1D.2 be fashioned to better connect with the outcome ("evaluate the merits of examples of natural scientific research at the level of an informed citizen")? Will there be an accompanying lab course to satisfy outcome 2.1D.3, or will Principles of Nutrition require supplementation with one of the labs taught through the Biology department? It was noted, regarding this last question, that when the HHP 230 proposal is revised, outcome 2.1D.3 should be taken out of the proposal; CORE program policy requires that outcome 2.1D.3 "be satisfied by a lab or field course of at least 1 credit hour in addition to and separate from the course that satisfies outcomes 1 and 2."

¹ Let it be noted that, as a student working from home under the current situation, Musgrove is not required to participate in these online meetings.

4:53 (2 minutes) Chair directed attention to a draft resolution asking Academic Council to eliminate the 3-credit-hour upper-division interdisciplinary graduation requirement. (See Appendix below.) This is something we will probably take up at our next meeting.

4:55 Meeting ended. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 16 in cyberspace. The link to the Zoom site [is here](#).

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 consider eliminating this Degree Requirement for the following reasons:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.