

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday September 19, 2019

Time: 3:30-5:00

Location: Rarick Hall 113

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Marcella Marez (AHSS)

Jessica Heronemus (BE)

David Schmidt (BE)

Sarah Broman (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 Broman, Chretien, Miles, and Olt. Heronemus served as proxy for Broman and Olt. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:31 (29 minutes) Chair summarized some of the discussion that came up at yesterday's academic affairs committee meeting. Perhaps most significantly, it appears that they are going to recommend removal of the following item under "General Policies" in the proposed FHSU CORE Program Policies and Procedures:

At this time, the following outcome sets are satisfied by these courses, pending review:

Outcomes 1.1-B:

COMM 100 Fundamentals of Oral Communication

Outcomes 1.2, and 2.1-C:

Any one of the following, MATH 101 Liberal Arts Mathematics, or MATH 110 College Algebra, or MATH 130 Pre-Calculus Mathematics, or MATH 234 Analytic Geometry and Calculus I, or MATH 331 Calculus Methods

Outcomes 1.3:

INF 101 Introduction to Computer Information Systems

Outcomes 1.5 1–2:

PHIL 100 Critical Thinking

Outcomes 3.1-A:

They have two objections: (1) If a course is pending review, then it can't be said to satisfy its respective outcome set. And (2), there is no reason in principle why other courses shouldn't be able to satisfy these outcome sets just as well if not better than these courses; they don't want to close the door to development of these alternative courses. The committee discussed these objections and related concerns, but nothing came to a vote.

4:00 (14 minutes) Attention turned next to a detail under "Policies for Course Proposal" in the same document. It was moved to add a clarificatory amendment to the policy that "a department is limited to offering courses that satisfy outcome sets from no more than two modes of inquiry." The added sentence is the following:

Exceptions to this policy can be granted to departments that are conjoined, multidisciplinary units.

This was approved: 10 in favor, none opposed, one abstention.

4:14 (16 minutes) McNeil reminded the committee that we are tasked with designing a *general* education program, and that this implies designating at least some courses shared by all students. Drabkin suggested that, for good or ill, we have chosen to interpret this task as designing a curriculum built around common learning outcomes, and this does not necessarily require that any course be shared by all students. It seemed to the committee that some courses in the CORE program will inevitably be taken by nearly all students. But which courses? And do we have good reason to specify some but not others? In response to the anticipated objection coming from the academic affairs committee that the list of identified courses be dropped from General Policies (see 3:31 above), McNeil recommended requiring that students take some of the same courses, regardless of the student's major -- the two basic composition courses, one of five designated math courses, and the public speaking course -- as well as non-major-specific courses in critical thinking, computer applications, personal wellness, and personal finance.

4:30 (16 minutes) A full list of questions from faculty senators to the general education committee will be available this coming Monday, September 23. Chair encourages the committee to come to the meeting next Thursday having thought through these questions. In the meantime, academic affairs will meet, probably Wednesday afternoon, and try to come up with a fuller list of recommendations for us to consider. If we can get our responses to their recommendations to them by then end of next week, then they may be able to hold another meeting and work up a recommendation to the senate on the proposed policies and procedures in time for the October senate meeting.

4:46 (2 minutes) Chair informed the committee that, under current policy, TILT will have to be involved in the development of new online versions of CORE courses. Whether they realize just how much work is going to be coming their way in the near future is unclear.

4:48 (1 minute) Meeting came to an end. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for next Thursday September 26 at 3:30 in Rarick 113.

