

# FHSU General Education Committee

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## Minutes

### Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

**Date:** Thursday February 24, 2022

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

**Location:** Pioneer Room, and  
<https://fhsu.zoom.us/j/94468542828>

### Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)  
Marcella Marez (AHSS)  
Christina Glenn (BE)  
David Schmidt (BE)  
Sarah Broman Miller (Ed)  
Phillip Olt (Ed)  
Denise Orth (HBS)  
Tanya Smith (HBS)  
C.D. Clark (STM)  
Lane Young (STM)  
Robyn Hartman (Lib)  
Rob Byer (Senate)  
Ryan Stanley (SGA)  
Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

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3:30 All members were present with the exception of Glenn, Miller, and Stanley. Schmidt served as proxy for Glenn and Miller. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:31 (1 minute) The minutes from last week were approved.

3:32 (6 minutes) Chair informed the committee that the general education section of the university catalogue needs to be updated prior to the launch of the CORE program in the fall so that it sets out and explains things such as: the idea of an outcomes-based program; the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the CORE program; the policies of the program; and the list of approved courses. Hartman, Marez, and Young will work as a sub-committee to produce a draft of this document.

3:38 (49 minutes) Clark presented a proposal from the natural scientific mode of inquiry subcommittee to revise the three 2.1D outcomes. The current wording is as follows:

The student will

1. identify essential characteristics of natural science questions (questions of empirical study and applications of scientific methodologies);
2. evaluate the merits of examples of natural scientific research at the level of an informed citizen;
3. apply scientific methodology to a natural science question to increase understanding, make an informed decision, and/or solve a problem.

The proposed revised wording is as follows:

The student will

1. make appropriate use of models based on well-established scientific theory to predict or explain natural phenomena;
2. evaluate the accuracy or plausibility of a claim or scenario using scientific theories or methodologies;
3. collect and analyze observational data using scientific methodologies.

Clark argued that the revised outcomes are more in keeping with what goes on in college science courses, particularly the ones taken by students majoring in the natural sciences. The committee agreed that the revised outcomes were clear and assessable. Most of the discussion focused on outcome 1, and whether too much would be lost in moving from an outcome assessing a student's general grasp of what it is that distinguishes thinking like a natural scientist from the other modes of inquiry to an outcome that could conceivably be met by the application of a memorized formula. There was also a question whether outcomes 1 and 2, in the new version, are at root the same thing: applying a scientific model to a particular case. Chair advised the committee not to move on this -- to send a recommendation to Academic Affairs -- until it is clear that the proposal has the backing of the STM dean and a consensus of the relevant chairs (biology, geosciences, chemistry, physics, etc.). The subcommittee (Clark, Drabkin, and Young) will continue working on the first outcome and run what they come up with by the dean and chairs before bringing a second draft of the revision to the committee.

4:27 (2 minutes) The committee considered a proposal for **GSCI 685: Writing in the Sciences** to satisfy the **upper-division written communication and critical thinking outcomes (1.1A and 1.5.3)**. The proposal was **approved**.

4:29 (2 minutes) The committee considered a proposal for **PHIL 499: Senior Seminar** to satisfy the **upper-division written communication and critical thinking outcomes (1.1A and 1.5.3)**. The proposal was **approved**.

4:31 (7 minutes) The committee considered a proposal for **UNIV 402: Upper-Level Writing** to satisfy the **upper-division written communication and critical thinking outcomes (1.1A and 1.5.3)**. The proposal was **approved**.

4:38 (10 minutes) The committee considered a revision to the proposal for **PSY 100: General Psychology** to satisfy **the social scientific mode of inquiry outcomes (2.1F)**. The proposal was **approved contingent** upon the department filling out the CORE rubric for outcome 2.1F.3 with language explaining what they are looking for at the four levels of achievement: "proficiency," "developing proficiency," etc. (The outcome is for the student to "compare and contrast human behavior among various cultures using social science concepts.")

4:48 (3 minutes) The committee considered a proposal for **SLP 480: Principles of Research in Communication Sciences and Disorders** to satisfy the **information literacy outcomes (1.4)**. The proposal was **tabled** due a mismatch between the proposal and the outcomes at several points. Hartman and either Chair or Young will meet with the department about revising the proposal.

4:51 It was decided to hold consideration of the proposal for **TEEL 340: Classroom Management** to satisfy the **intercultural competence outcomes (3.2)** until next week. The meeting ended.

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Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary

