

# FHSU General Education Committee

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## Minutes

### Meeting Called by

Glen McNeil, Chair

### Date:

Thursday August 25, 2022

### Time:

3:30-5:00

### Location:

Trails Room

### Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)  
Marcella Marez (AHSS)  
Christina Glenn (BE)  
David Schmidt (BE)  
Sarah Broman Miller (Ed)  
Sohyun Yang (Ed)  
Denise Orth (HBS)  
Tanya Smith (HBS)  
C.D. Clark (STM)  
Todd Moore (STM)  
Robyn Hartman (Lib)  
Justin Greenleaf (Senate)  
Emma Day (SGA)  
Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

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3:30 (2 minutes) All members were present. Jill Arensdorf (Provost) and Brad Will (Director of General Education) were also in attendance.

3:32 (1 minute) Brad Will is stepping down as chair of this committee, although he will continue to serve our general education program in an administrative role. Glen McNeil will serve this year as chair of the committee. The minutes from the May 12 meeting were approved.

3:33 (53 minutes) The purpose of this week's meeting was for Jill Arensdorf to inform the committee about how she wants us to proceed in aligning our [CORE program](#) with the Kansas Board of Regents Statewide General Education Program (see Appendix below). KBOR has given us until Fall 2024 to bring this about (full rollout). For scheduling purposes, this means we need to have the alignment decided upon and approved by January 2024. She, however, would prefer this work to be done more quickly, so that we can have a Fall 2023 rollout, and minimize disruptions here at FHSU. This would require having things approved by this coming January. Whether this is time enough to set our options against our institutional priorities and think matters through properly is unclear, but to expedite the process, she has chosen to call together a working group of six people -- not selected yet, one from each of the five colleges and one from the library, three of which will come from the General Education Committee and three of which will come from the Academic Affairs Committee -- to study the situation and make a recommendation. This working group will make its recommendation to the General Education Committee. The General Education Committee will make its

recommendation to the Academic Affairs Committee. And the Academic Affairs Committee will make its recommendation to the Faculty Senate. In the interest of transparency and good process, Arensdorf agreed that this working group should take detailed minutes and publish them in a timely way, so that the reasons given for the choices being considered are properly aired, challenged, and supported. Perhaps most controversial in all this upcoming work will be what to do with the six credit hours of "Institutionally Designated Areas" coursework in the KBOR plan (see ii.7 below). To help guide the working group in thinking these matters through, she worked this summer to create a draft proposal which aligns student learning outcomes from the FHSU CORE to the KBOR framework. This draft proposal, which can be used as a starting point for the working group, also contains suggestions regarding the six credit hours of Institutionally Designated Areas coursework. It has been shared with Academic Council (the deans), the Faculty Senate President (Rob Byer), the presumed Academic Affairs Committee Chair (Justin Greenleaf), the Director of Liberal Education (Brad Will), and the Chair of the General Education Committee (Glen McNeil). The draft will be shared with the working group when it is formed. But Arensdorf chose not to share it with our committee at this time, preferring to delay until Faculty Senate has met and finalized its committees. This way, the draft will be shared with both groups at the same time. She did indicate that, in the proposal, outcomes 1.1A and 1.5.3 (upper-division writing and critical thinking) would be preserved as university graduation requirements. She did not indicate, however, what the proposal recommends regarding the other outcome sets that don't fit in an obvious way into the KBOR framework, e.g., lower-division critical thinking (1.5.1-2), computing literacy (1.3), information literacy (1.4), dimensions of wellness (3.1A), financial health (3.1.B), intercultural competence (3.2), and engaged global citizens (3.3). We discussed briefly that some of these outcomes could perhaps be folded into other KBOR framework courses. But the extent to which this is workable is unclear. What is clear is that the credit hours required to complete the CORE program will have to be reduced to match the number set by the Regents (34-35 hours), leaving us with a leaner program. This will free up space for some degree programs to add courses as cognates. And KBOR will have finally achieved the "seamless transferability" that they have wanted to bring about for so long, allowing students to transfer easily between institutions.

4:26 (10 minutes) Will informed the committee that a fairly-simple-to-set-up link has been devised to go between the Blackboard course Grade Center and the university's AEFIS assessment database. Instructors teaching CORE courses this semester will be using this system to generate outcome assessment data on a scale we've never really had before.

4:36 The meeting ended. Our meeting on Thursday September 1 is cancelled. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 8 at 3:30 PM in Rarick 107.

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



## **Appendix -- Kansas Board of Regents Systemwide General Education Program:**

[https://www.kansasregents.org/about/policies-by-laws-missions/board\\_policy\\_manual\\_2/chapter\\_iii\\_coordination\\_of\\_institutions\\_2/chapter\\_iii\\_full\\_text#GenEd](https://www.kansasregents.org/about/policies-by-laws-missions/board_policy_manual_2/chapter_iii_coordination_of_institutions_2/chapter_iii_full_text#GenEd)

### **18. SYSTEMWIDE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

For the purposes of this policy:

“Coordinated institution” means each community college and Washburn University.

“Kansas public institution” means each state university and each participating coordinated institution.

“Major” means a field of study within a degree program, having its own curriculum. A degree program may have more than one major.

“Systemwide transfer course” means a course approved by the Board, for which faculty develop and update learning outcomes. These courses transfer to any Kansas public institution offering an equivalent course.

**a. General Education Requirements at State Universities and Participating Coordinated Institutions.** The general education requirements at each state university and each participating coordinated institution shall consist of the following:

i. Effective no later than the 2024 fall semester, each Kansas public institution shall use a common systemwide general education framework within associate of arts (A.A.) degrees, associate of fine arts (A.F.A) degrees, associate of science (A.S.) degrees, and all baccalaureate degrees.

ii. The systemwide general education framework shall include 34-35 credit hours within the following seven areas. A student shall be considered to have completed the systemwide general education framework for A.A. degrees, A.F.A degrees, A.S. degrees, and all baccalaureate degrees by meeting the following requirements:

(1) English Discipline Area – 6 Credit Hours

(2) Communication Discipline Area – 3 Credit Hours

(3) Math and Statistics Discipline Area – 3 Credit Hours (Must be college level. Intermediate algebra shall not meet any of the math degree requirements)

(4) Natural and Physical Sciences Discipline Area – 4-5 Credit Hours

One course with a lab from the following subject areas:

Anatomy

Astronomy  
Biochemistry  
Biology  
Botany  
Chemistry  
Earth Science  
Ecology  
Environmental Science  
Geology  
Meteorology  
Microbiology  
Physical Geography  
Physical Sciences  
Physics  
Physiology  
Zoology  
Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the natural and physical sciences area

(5) Social & Behavioral Sciences Discipline Area – 6 Credit Hours

A minimum of two courses from two of the following subject areas:

Anthropology  
Criminal Justice  
Economics  
Ethnic and/or Gender Studies  
Geography  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Social Work  
Sociology

Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the social sciences area

(6) Arts & Humanities Discipline Area – 6 Credit Hours

A minimum of two courses from two of the following subject areas:

Art\*  
Communications  
Cultural Studies  
Dance\*  
English  
General Humanities  
History  
Literature  
Modern and Classical Languages  
Music\*  
Philosophy  
Religion  
Theater\*

Other subjects that the offering institution determines fit within the arts and humanities

\*The application of performance courses in this subject area is at the discretion of the institution.

(7) Institutionally Designated Area – 6 Credit Hours

This area provides flexibility for each Kansas public institution to define requirements to account for societal issues, local needs, and institutional priorities (Intermediate algebra shall not meet any of the requirements in this area).

**iii.** Each Kansas public institution that verifies that the student has met the requirements in paragraphs 18.a.ii.(1)-(7) of this policy section shall note “KS Systemwide General Education Completed” on its official transcript.

**iv.** The application of the systemwide general education requirements for transfer students is detailed in the Board’s transfer and articulation policy.