

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday January 24, 2019

Time: 3:30-5:00

Location: Smoky Hill Room, Union

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Marcella Marez (AHSS)

Jessica Heronemus (BE)

David Schmidt (BE)

Sarah Broman (Ed)

Kevin Splichal (Ed)

Trey Hill (HBS)

Glen McNeil (HBS)

Joe Chretien (STM)

Tom Schafer (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Helen Miles (Senate)

Adam Schibi (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Tanya Smith (Grad Sch)

3:30 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Chretien, Hartman, and Smith. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:31 (9 minutes) Chair filled the committee in on some business coming our way, in particular reviewing and approving a change to the university's transfer and articulation agreement as it relates to general education.

3:40 (15 minutes) Following up some first steps taken at the end of last semester, Heronemus and McNeil agreed to lead the work to produce the text for the revised FHSU general education web page. One of the complications that arose in discussion was identifying the best way to divide up the sub-buttons under "For Students" -- in other words, how to organize the information from the various general education programs now active, and the new one on the way, to get the right information to each student who comes looking for it. See "Tasks for Remaking the General Education Website" appended below for where things stood at the end of November.

3:55 (17 minutes) Attention turned next to setting up a working group to draft policies and procedures for the FHSU CORE program. This work began last semester but needs to be completed soon so the university understands how we are going to make the transition to a general education program built upon the measurable learning outcomes approved by faculty senate last semester. Drabkin, Hill, McNeil, Miles, and Heronemus agreed to serve on this working group.

4:12 (25 minutes) The next item for discussion was how to go about selecting people to serve on the faculty rubric panels, the people who are going to develop the assessment rubrics for the various CORE outcome sets. Chair proposed turning to the deans to appoint panel members, and this made sense to the committee. But for some of the outcome sets this may be problematic. The social scientific mode of inquiry, for instance, could involve courses taught by faculty in at least three of the five colleges. Some argued that it would be desirable for the mode of inquiry rubric panels, and perhaps some of the other panels, to include representatives from each of the five colleges. The discussion was tabled until next week's meeting. In the meantime, Chair will ask deans to appoint people to the rubric panels for the outcome sets that are to be met by one specific course.

4:37 (25 minutes) The last item of business was discussing in broad strokes what has to get done to get FHSU CORE off the ground in time for a Fall 2020 launch. One thing became quite clear: if this goal is going to be achieved, the very important work that is going to have to happen this semester is going to be rushed. The deans can be contacted early next week about appointing people to serve on the faculty rubric panels. But everything is going to take time: the deans are contacted, the deans contact the chairs, the chairs nominate people, the deans invite people to serve, they accept. Hopefully this can be done in time for rubric orientation workshops to take place in mid-February. The panels meet and do their work. If the panels complete their work within two weeks -- which may be difficult if people don't see eye to eye on what standards we should be holding students to -- then we are going to have our hands full refining and approving these seventeen or so rubrics (on top of our other jobs) in time for an introduction to faculty senate at their April meeting. (We can only hope this will be easier than the work that went into devising and revising the outcomes themselves.) These rubrics are going to have to be good if the FHSU CORE is going to generate data worth having. And all this is going to be on top of writing, revising, and approving the policies and procedures for the program, which is also going to have to go before senate. If we don't make deadline for the April senate meeting, it is hard to see how this all can come to a vote at the May senate meeting without asking senate to rubberstamp something that should be given careful study and deliberation. And an end of semester Spring 2019 deadline needs to be a firm one if our colleagues are going to have the summer to design and redesign courses for Fall 2019 approval, in order to make scheduling at the start of Spring 2020 possible, enabling the Fall 2020 launch.

5:02 Meeting ended. The committee will next meet on Thursday January 30 at 3:30 in the Smoky Hill Room.

Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary



Appendix:

TASKS FOR REMAKING THE GENERAL EDUCATION WEBSITE

Identify all content for deletion.

Decide on the message for the landing page.

This should explain what we mean by general education, and why general education is important.

Decide on the content for the “For Students” left-side navigation button.

This content will fall under one of three sub-buttons:

1. “For Students Seeking a Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.) Degree”
2. “For Students Transferring to the University with an Associate’s Degree or 45 or More Hours of Coursework”
3. “For All Other Degree-Seeking Students”

Decide on the content for the “For Faculty” left-side navigation button.

This content will fall under three sub-buttons:

1. “Advising”
 - a. Explain the various currently active General Education programs.
 - b. Set out any rules faculty need to guide students.
 - c. Include information on general education requirements for students at our international partner institutions.
2. “The FHSU CORE”
 - a. key features and terms (measurable learning outcomes, reasoning and writing across the curriculum, modes of inquiry, etc.)
 - b. objectives and outcomes
 - c. implementation timeline
 - d. policies and procedures
 - e. assessment rubrics
 - f. how to propose new courses
3. “The General Education Committee”
 - a. membership
 - b. minutes