

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday February 21, 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)

3:31 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Broman, Chretien, Schibi, and Smith. Duffy served as proxy for Smith, and Marez served as proxy for Broman. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:32 (40 minutes) Last semester, the committee decided "*to limit the number of FHSU CORE hours that can be taken through courses from the student's degree program to no more than six hours from goal 2, and three hours from goal 3.*" The first order of business this week was to try to figure out just what this means, which is to say, what we *want* it to mean, and how to capture this thought in language, with precision and accuracy. This proved very difficult to do. The committee's intention last semester had been to put a cap on how many CORE courses students would be taking from any one department, the idea being to encourage a stimulating mingling of different kinds of students and faculty members, and to discourage students from being boxed up with the same faces all through college. But what does it mean to limit the number of courses "from the student's degree program"? Courses required for the student's major? Courses that count towards the student's major? Courses taught by faculty members in the department of the student's major? Courses with the same prefix? And what happens, if anything, when the student switches majors? Not everyone on the committee was convinced that the restriction is worth keeping (and so, worth discussing), but the majority wanted to make this work, so the committee decided, unanimously, to table the matter until next week, and to try in the meantime, each of us on our own, to think through just what this should mean and how it should be said. Chair requested that, whatever the committee decides, let it not involve putting the responsibility on the student for figuring out what does or does not count in their particular case towards fulfilling the CORE requirements.

4:12 (22 minutes) The committee's attention turned next to two handouts produced by the rubric development subgroup (Broman, Duffy, Marez, and Smith) designed to be put in the hands of our colleagues as they go about making their courses CORE-ready. One provided information about the sort of thing we're looking for, and the other recommended a series of practical steps for developing a CORE rubric. Both seemed to make a lot of sense to the committee, and it was agreed that something like them should be made available when the call goes out for course proposals. One minor change decided upon was to replace the phrase "Gen-Ed CORE" with "FHSU CORE" or simply "CORE"; we're trying to move away from the dismissive use of the phrase "gen ed course."

4:34 (26 minutes?) The final item of business was to clarify a policy decision from last week that "*natural science mode of inquiry outcome 3 must be satisfied by a lab or field course of at least 1 credit hour.*" The question was whether we were going to interpret this to rule out the possibility of departments developing and offering 3-hour lab or field courses that satisfy all three natural science mode of inquiry outcomes. In the end it was decided by a vote of 10 in favor, 1 against, to answer this question with a "yes." The policy was amended to read: "Natural science mode of inquiry outcome 3 must 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.*" This policy change does not prohibit departments from offering a pair of courses totaling three credit hours (2 lecture + 1 lab, or 1 lecture + 2 lab) that fulfill all the natural science mode of inquiry outcomes, but it does prohibit all the outcomes being fulfilled in the same course.

5:00? Meeting ended. The committee will next meet on Thursday February 28 at 3:30 in the Smoky Hill Room.

Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary

