

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Monday September 11, 2017

Time: 3:30-4:30

Location: Rarick 205

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)
Marcella Marez (AHSS)
Jessica Heronemus (BE)
David Schmidt (BE)
Kevin Splichal (Ed)
Teresa Woods (Ed)
Trey Hill (HBS)
Glen McNeil (HBS)
William Weber (STM)
Tom Schafer (STM)
Robyn Hartman (Lib)
Helen Miles (Senate)
not yet appointed (SGA)
Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)
Kenton Russell (FYE)
Tanya Smith (Grad Sch)

Members

3:32 (1 minute) All were present except for Hartman, Marez, McNeil, Weber, and the as-of-yet-not-appointed representative of the Student Government Association. Heronemus served as proxy for Hartman, and Miles as proxy for McNeil.

3:33 (1 minute) Chair announced that our meetings are scheduled for the foreseeable future to occur every Monday at 3:30 PM in Rarick 205.

3:34 (20 minutes) Chair brought to the committee a proposal: Would the committee approve of our new general education goals and objectives serving as “common learning objectives” for the AQIP report currently being prepared for submission this coming January? It is understood that the university would be described in the report as phasing out one general education program while preparing to phase in another, and that the measurable outcomes we are working on this semester would be incorporated into future AQIP reports. Discussion clarified that we want to be sure our current goals and objectives are used, those from October 2016 (see Appendix below), not the draft that was presented to Faculty Senate in April 2016. The committee agreed to the proposal, but asked, after it has been written up, to see the section of the AQIP report concerning the general education program. Chair will get this to the committee.

3:54 (20 minutes) The conversation about the two versions of the goals and objectives (both of which, confusedly, are posted on our www.fhsu.edu/liberaleducation website) brought up the question whether or not the revised goals and objectives should be brought before Faculty Senate again. They were last presented in PowerPoint form by Shala

Mills at the May 2017 Faculty Senate meeting as an “update” from our committee, but they were not given any serious discussion at the time. In the interest of promoting procedural transparency, a motion was made to bring them before the senate again, perhaps through the Academic Affairs Committee. The motion passed unanimously. Chair will consult with the Faculty Senate President about this.

4:14 (3 minutes) Next Monday’s meeting will focus on our main task for the semester: writing measurable learning outcomes for the program objectives we’ve identified and the program model we’re proposing. The meeting will involve hands-on exercises (training), and everyone is strongly encouraged to participate, including those of us with experience at this sort of thing. It is important that we all be on the same page about this.

4:17 Meeting ended.

Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary



Appendix:

PROPOSED GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEW GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Goal 1: CORE SKILLS

Objective 1.1: Written and oral communication

Students will effectively develop, express, and exchange ideas in the English language, both in writing and speaking, with clarity and coherence.

Objective 1.2: Quantitative literacy

Students will recognize quantitative relationships, use multiple approaches to analyze these relationships, and apply knowledge of these relationships to solve practical problems.

Objective 1.3: Technology literacy

Students will effectively and responsibly use appropriate technology for communication, scholarship, and problem-solving.

Objective 1.4: Information literacy

Students will effectively and responsibly gather, evaluate, and use information for scholarship and problem-solving.

Objective 1.5: Critical thinking

Students will explore issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion. Students will recognize, analyze, criticize, evaluate, and formulate arguments in ways characterized by intellectual courage.

Goal 2: BROAD AND INTEGRATIVE KNOWLEDGE

Objective 2.1: Knowledge of the liberal arts

Students will possess a broad understanding of the world, having studied the humanities, mathematics, the natural sciences, and the social and behavioral sciences, and the ways of knowing characteristic of these disciplines

Objective 2.2: Integrative and cross-disciplinary thinking

Students will make connections among ideas and experiences, synthesizing and transferring learning from different disciplines.

Objective 2.3: Synthesis with the major

Students will make connections between the specialized knowledge and skills of their major and other fields of study.

Goal 3: PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Objective 3.1: Personal and professional efficacy

Students will understand the consequences of choices in their personal and professional lives and possess knowledge necessary for the management of health, time, money, natural resources, and human relationships.

Objective 3.2: Intercultural competence

Students will understand their own and others' cultures and possess skills necessary to engage constructively with people across a range of races, ethnicities, genders, identities, abilities, histories, religions, traditions, and languages.

Objective 3.3: Ethical judgment

Students will recognize situations where reasonable, well-informed people disagree about what the right thing to do is; explain the underlying values that are in apparent tension, bringing to bear relevant ethical principles and approaches; and make intelligent decisions as a result.

Objective 3.4: Engaged global citizen leaders

Students will appreciate the world's complexity; the interdependence of natural, social, economic, and political factors; and the deep challenges that can arise both on a local and global scale. Students will possess the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to engage civically and work in cooperation with others toward creative responses to these challenges.