**FHSU Liberal Education Committee**

**Minutes**

Meeting Called by

Shala Mills, Chair

Date: Tuesday 1/31/2017

Time: 3:00-4:00

Location: Rarick 312

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Bradley Will (AHSS)

Dmitry Gimon (BE)

Jessica Heronemus (BE)

Kevin Splichal (Ed)

Teresa Woods (Ed)

Glen McNeil (HBS)

Tanya Smith (HBS)

William Weber (STM)

Tom Schafer (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Helen Miles (Senate)

Megan Garcia (SGA)

Cody Scheck (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Kenton Russell (Provost)

Chapman Rackaway (Grad Sch)

3:03 (19 minutes) Meeting began. All members present (eventually) except for Garcia, Heronemus, Miles, Splichal, and Will. Committee members exchanged introductions with Sangki Min, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Quality Improvement. Min offered to assist the committee with whatever the committee ends up trying to achieve. His expertise is in gathering and using assessment data. He emphasized the importance of assessing writing not just on completion of a lower level composition course, but in the student’s third and fourth years as well. Professors need to give students more opportunities in major courses to practice reading, critical thinking, and writing, even if the courses are not ones that focus on the teaching of writing. Trained writing faculty could read a sampling of student writing from these major courses to see if learning outcomes are being met.

3:22 (18 minutes) Schafer asked what the liberal education committee needs to do to make the program assessable. Min’s answer, basically, was that the committee needs to start somewhere, anywhere, but with concrete learning outcomes. The question then becomes where in the courses taught by the university these outcomes are being addressed.

3:40 (15 minutes) Min shared some work he did at a community college in the Kansas City area. There were two elements to it: (1) curriculum mapping and (2) outcomes assessment. Curriculum mapping involves keeping track of which objectives are being addressed by courses the student has been taking. Outcomes assessment is keeping track of how students are doing with respect to each of the outcomes being assessed. Min suggested that comparing the student’s curriculum map with the assessment data could be useful – to the student, to the student’s major department, and to the institution overall.

3:55 (14 minutes) Min described how assessment data can be compiled through BlackBoard. Assuming faculty can agree upon how to interpret the learning outcomes and can competently evaluate the degree to which they are being met, BlackBoard can make keeping track of the results manageable.

4:09 Meeting ended. The next meeting will be 3:00 PM on Thursday February 9.

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