

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018

Time: 2:30-3:30

Location: Smoky Hill Room, Union

Members

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)

Adam Schibi (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Kenton Russell (FYE)

Karmen Porter (Grad Sch)

Paul Lucas (nonvoting member)

2:31 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Duffy, Lucas, Marez, Schibi, and Weber. Determined that a quorum was met.

2:32 (3 minutes) Chair informed the committee that there was some miscommunication about an event being organized by the Writing Across the Curriculum group that will take place next Friday, April 27, but that this has since been cleared up. The event will be a Writing Across the Curriculum event, not a General Education Committee event, and it won't make direct reference to our committee or the as-of-yet-not-approved revision of the general education program.

2:35 (3 minutes) Woods informed the committee that the measurable learning outcomes for the oral communication component of objective 1.1 will soon be sent out to the stakeholder group for feedback, and that the stakeholder feedback on the outcomes for the technological mode of inquiry component of objective 2.1 has come in and is ready to be analyzed.

2:38 (73 minutes) Porter introduced a proposal for a revised set of three measurable learning outcomes for **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"). After considerable discussion, and input from everyone present, the following wording was informally agreed upon for two of these outcomes:

The student will

1. *produce an exploratory or investigative work based upon a personal interaction such as a conversation, an interview, or a service learning experience that compares and contrasts the culture of an individual or group outside of the student's own identity community with the student's own culture;*
2. *produce an exploratory or investigative work that elucidates multiple aspects of a culture outside of the student's own identity community.*

The third proposed learning outcome, which was introduced but only briefly discussed, and by no means agreed upon, will be taken up at a future meeting:

3. *engage in a role-play experience involving a language other than the student's own to accomplish a task requiring basic communicative skills.*

The committee needs to decide whether or not it is desirable to require of all students a phrasebook-level exposure to a foreign language – less than the content of a semester-long course, but more than nothing. A further piece of business regarding 3.2 was introduced towards the end of the meeting: simplification of the wording of the objective:

Current language:

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.

Proposed simplification:

Students will understand their own and others' cultures and possess skills necessary to engage constructively with all kinds of people.

Part of the motivation for the proposed change is that the nine elements of the diversity list (races, ethnicities, etc.) are incomplete; they fail to include "ages," for instance. But part of the motivation is also just that the shorter version seems clearer. Chair suggested that the first of these problems, the list's incompleteness, may be handled adequately with a phrase such as "such as." But nothing came to a vote. (And for the record, we never made it to the last item on our agenda, a proposal to simplify and clarify the language of the critical thinking objective 1.5.)

3:51 Meeting ended. The committee will meet next on Thursday, April 26 at 2:30 PM, again in the Smoky Hill Room of the Union.

Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary

