**FHSU Liberal Education Committee**

**Minutes**

Meeting Called by

Shala Mills, Chair

Date: Thursday 2/9/2017

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 (First Year)

Chapman Rackaway (Grad Sch)

3:03 (1 minute) All were in attendance except for Garcia, Miles, Rackaway, Schafer, Scheck, Smith. Hartman was serving as proxy for Schafer, and McNeil was serving as proxy for Miles and Rackaway. Established that a quorum was met. Chair reminded the committee that, beginning next week, Tuesday meetings will be moving to Mondays.

3:04 (18 minutes) Chair asked the committee to consider an anonymous suggestion from our online suggestion box that study abroad experiences sometimes be accepted to satisfy some or all of the 6 hours of “liberal arts – international studies” coursework required under the current General Education Program. The committee thought the idea has merit, and it was agreed that Gimon will speak with Andree Brisson, who is serving as Director of Study Abroad Programs, and see if she would be willing to propose something along these lines for the committee to consider. It was understood that this proposal would be an amendment to the current General Education Program, not necessarily part of the new liberal education program we are designing. It was agreed that experimentation along these lines may give rise to insights helpful for designing the new program.

3:22 (3 minutes) Chair informed the committee that the new WorkDay system should be capable of keeping track of specific qualities of courses of interest to the committee, for instance those that emphasize experiential learning or that are writing intensive.

3:25 (8 minutes) Chair informed the committee that a working group out of the College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics would like to come to one of our committee meetings with a proposal for piloting a “Science for Citizens” course in the current General Education Program (so again, sooner rather than later) as a “liberal arts – distribution – mathematics and natural sciences” course. Members of this working group had agreed to attend our meeting next Tuesday, but as that meeting has now been moved to Monday, it is unclear whether they will be able to join us next week.

3:33 (10 minutes) Chair introduced the committee to an overview of the 45-hour general education program that transfer students often use; it may be found [here](https://www.fhsu.edu/registrar/transfer-agreement-articulation/). Will pointed out that this is very similar to but slightly different from the 45-hour general education program that students are required to complete for the Bachelor of General Studies degree; it may be found [here](https://www.fhsu.edu/bgs/requirements/). Chair suggested that the flexibility of these requirements may be something the committee ought to consider when designing the new liberal education program.

3:43 (3 minutes) Duffy gave the committee an update on her efforts to set up a university writing advisory group. She has met with the provost, who supports the idea. Deans have been informed, and chairs have been informed. Some faculty members just got word of the working group from their chairs yesterday. So far two deans have reported back with names of people willing to serve in the writing advisory group.

3:46 (11 minutes) Chair asked if the committee should set up a similar university critical thinking advisory group, or an information literacy advisory group. After some informal discussion (no motions), the committee decided to continue mulling this over. Chair is working on getting funding to send some committee members to a critical thinking workshop.

3:57 (1 minute) Chair recommended that committee members review the DQP and AAC&U Value rubrics. They are in our binders.

3:58 (2 minutes) Chair wondered whether the committee would be better off beginning with learning outcomes and working towards developing program models, or beginning with program models and working towards developing learning outcomes.

4:00 Meeting ended. The next meeting will be Monday February 13 (in just 4 days). Agenda topics may include one or both of the following: (1) the Science for Citizens course proposal – see 3:25 above; and (2) the sketch of a 36-hour program that Drabkin has been thinking about.

**----------------------------------------------------------------------**

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