**FHSU Liberal Education Committee**

**Minutes**

Meeting Called by

Shala Mills, Chair

Date: Tuesday 11/17/2016

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)

3:01 Meeting began. All members present except for Gimon, Garcia, Scheck, and Russell. Heronemus was serving as proxy for Gimon. Established that a quorum was met.

3:02 (7 minutes) At the request of Assistant Provost Crowley, Chair raised the question whether the phrase “liberal education” should be in the title of the program we are devising. The concern is that people who are ignorant of its meaning (its various meanings, traditional and contemporary) might find it misleading and potentially threatening. Will recommended that we keep the phrase and clearly define what we mean. Chair mentioned the possibility of something like “university studies,” a title that some committee members found appealing. McNeil recommended that the committee seek the Provost’s thoughts on this since he changed the name of the committee to “liberal education committee” and gave us our charge to develop a “liberal education program”; if the Provost sees fit to change our name or the name of our project, so be it. McNeil recommendation was accepted by consensus.

3:09 Chair announced that two copies of Mary Allen’s *General Education Essentials* have come in. McNeil and Rackaway took them.

3:10 (15 minutes) Terry Rhodes of AAC&U, and formerly of Portland State University, will be joining the committee at our next meeting through teleconferencing. In anticipation of this meeting, the committee came up with a list of questions to put to Rhodes in advance. These questions, listed under “Announcements” on the committee’s BlackBoard site, will be sent by email to Rhodes.

3:25 (42 minutes) What followed was an open-ended discussion based on the question: *Where do we go from here?* McNeil noted, and Splichal later reiterated, that we still don’t know how much flexibility we have in setting up a new program; in particular, we need to know if we have to get Board of Regents approval for the changes we make. Chair said that she will find this out. Woods sketched out an idea for linking courses to goals, objectives, and tiered learning outcomes through a web-based interface. The idea, roughly, is that students would be able to see at a glance what part of the program they still need to complete and could select from a wide range of courses, options that would match their needs to their interests. McNeil recommended breaking up into sub-groups to put together different models so that we can start seeing what a new program would end up looking like. Drabkin recommended that, whatever we decide upon, it should be something that hangs together better than our current general education program does as a memorable, meaningful whole. Smith, Woods, and others asked that, whatever we decide upon, it should be flexible, and not too large. Chair recommended surveying the committee by email to help us see what we are thinking.

4:12 Meeting ended. The next scheduled meeting is for 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 1. Our guest will be Terry Rhodes (see 3:10 above).

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