

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday January 27, 2022

Time: 3:30-5:00

Location: Pioneer Room, Memorial Union

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Marcella Marez (AHSS)

Christina Glenn (BE)

David Schmidt (BE)

Sarah Broman Miller (Ed)

Phillip Olt (Ed)

Denise Orth (HBS)

Tanya Smith (HBS)

C.D. Clark (STM)

Lanee Young (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Rob Byer (Senate)

Ryan Stanley (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

3:30 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Duffy, Schmidt, and Stanley. Marez served as proxy for Duffy, and Glenn served as proxy for Schmidt. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:30 (seconds) The minutes from December 16 were approved.

3:31 (19 minutes) Chair informed the committee that he met with Marcus Porter, coordinator for the Credit for Prior Learning program. Porter is interested in setting something called "badging" at our institution. The idea is that students who achieve proficiency in some useful skill or knowledge set could be awarded a "badge," basically an internet link that interested others could click on to be suitably impressed by the student's accomplishments (sort of like a mini-diploma). Porter wonders if this could be tied in with the learning outcomes of the CORE program. The most obvious problem with this is that the CORE is being set up to measure proficiency at the university level, not at the level of the individual student. It is not the case that a student who, for instance, satisfies the course work for objective 2.1A has achieved proficiency for that outcome set. In any case, the committee more or less agreed that we're too busy at the moment getting the CORE up and running to worry about badging. Chair also informed the committee that a regularly updated document of fully approved CORE courses is now available through the GenEd website; click on the first word "here" at <https://www.fhsu.edu/liberaleducation/general-education/>. Chair also reminded the committee of some of the details concerning the general education program for transfer students.

3:50 (6 minutes) Young asked if a mathematics course could be required for students completing the Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree. She and Chair decided to talk about it after the meeting.

3:36 (5 minutes) The committee considered a proposal for **POLS 101: American Government** to satisfy the outcome set for **objective 2.1F (the social scientific mode of inquiry)**. The committee **approved** the course.

4:01 (1 minute) The committee considered a proposal for **POLS 103: State and Local Government** to satisfy the outcome set for **objective 2.1F (the social scientific mode of inquiry)**. The committee **approved** the course.

4:02 (18 minutes) The committee considered a proposal for **POLS 105: Current Political Issues** to satisfy the outcome set for **objective 3.3 (engaged global citizens)**. This one gave us pause. The practical structure of the proposed CORE assignment is in some ways excellent -- it involves identifying a problem, analyzing it, and proposing a solution, just as the outcomes call for. The problem noticed by the committee, largely in the Teams discussion beforehand, is that the project, beginning as it does with the student attending something like a local city commission meeting and noticing what happens to be of greatest concern at the moment, could end up focusing on something that doesn't meet the "boundary spanning" condition called for in the outcomes. The committee decided to **table** the proposal and meet with the course's designer to see if something can be done to clear this up.

4:20 (10 minutes?) The committee considered a proposal for **POLS 111: Political Thinking for the Greater Good** to satisfy the outcome set for **objective 3.3 (engaged global citizens)**. There was some question at the start about whether this course is significantly different from Current Political Issues, but we decided it wasn't our business to fuss about course duplication. Regarding 3.3, the committee judged that it's a good fit. Unlike POLS 105, the restriction of the CORE project to a problem involving resource scarcity seemed to be appropriately focused on something "boundary spanning" (although, admittedly, this is one blurry concept). Some on the committee wondered if this assignment wouldn't serve well for POL 105. The committee **approved** the course, 10 in favor, 1 abstaining.

4:30? Meeting ended. Our next meeting will be Thursday February 3 at 3:30 PM.

Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary

