

# FHSU General Education Committee

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## Minutes

### Meeting Called by

Glen McNeil, Chair

### Date:

Thursday November 17, 2022

### Time:

3:30-4:30

### Location:

Rarick 107

### Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)  
Marcella Marez (AHSS)  
Christina Glenn (BE)  
David Schmidt (BE)  
Sarah Broman Miller (Ed)  
Sohyun Yang (Ed)  
Denise Orth (HBS)  
Tanya Smith (HBS)  
C.D. Clark (STM)  
Todd Moore (STM)  
Robyn Hartman (Lib)  
Justin Greenleaf (Senate)  
Emma Day (SGA)  
Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

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3:30 All members were present with the exception of Miller, Moore, and Yang. Schmidt served as proxy for Miller. Clark served as proxy for Moore. And Duffy served as proxy for Yang. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:30 (1 minute) The amended minutes from last week's meeting were approved.

3:31 (1 minute) Chair announced that proposals for two art courses are scheduled for consideration at our next meeting, but that we haven't heard back from the faculty advisory panel yet.

3:32 (47 minutes) The one item of business this week was considering the document "[Fort Hays State University General Education Recommendations](#)," dated 11/9/22, from the working group of six (Clark, Hartman, and Smith from our committee, and Linda Feldstein, Ginger Loggins, and Matthew Smalley from the Academic Affairs committee) who have been tasked with adjusting the FHSU CORE program to fit within the restrictions set by the new Kansas Board of Regents systemwide general education program. The document was introduced at last week's meeting. This week, in discussion, the committee was generally supportive of the group's work. The only real point of contention was whether the persuasive writing and lower-division critical thinking outcomes (1.1A.1, 1.5.1, and 1.5.2) are important enough to merit requiring that all students take a course focusing on them. Glenn suggested that, were this required, then fewer students would end up taking the personal finance course, and that this would be harmful to the students who missed this

opportunity. She also suggested that critical thinking is no more “foundational” than personal finance. Duffy replied that, whereas financial competence is generally important in life, as is health and a number of other things, critical thinking (reasoning well) is particularly important to the work of students at a university. Duffy also mentioned that the requiring of a combined reasoning-and-writing course has received a strong endorsement from the Writing Across the Curriculum committee. Clark noted, further, that this required course would solve the problem that some departments have found in making the 1.1A.1 persuasive essay assessment fit into their major programs. It was also noted that, with the restrictions set by the KBOR systemwide plan, the new general education program will now be much smaller than anything we have worked with recently, and students will be freer to take courses important to their personal development. A motion to recommend approval of the working group’s plan was put a vote, and it passed: 9 in favor, 4 opposed. Greenleaf said that the group’s proposal and our recommendation will be considered by Academic Affairs after Fall Break, and then move on to Faculty Senate in early December.

4:19 The meeting ended. Our next meeting is scheduled for the Thursday after Thanksgiving, December 1, in Rarick 107.

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

