

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday January 21, 2021

Time: 3:30-4:43

Location: <https://fhsu.zoom.us/j/93003453531>

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Marcella Marez (AHSS)

Christina Glenn (BE)

David Schmidt (BE)

Sarah Broman Miller (Ed)

Phillip Olt (Ed)

Glen McNeil (HBS)

Denise Orth (HBS)

Joe Chretien (STM)

Lanee Young (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Helen Miles (Senate)

Isaiah Schindler (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Tanya Smith (Grad Sch)

3:31 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Chretien, McNeil, Miller, and Schindler. Miles served as proxy for McNeil. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:32 (1 minute) Chair announced that the meeting for next week, January 28, is *no longer cancelled*.

3:33 (12 minutes) Chair shared a proposal that has come before Academic Council for the university to consider the online services of "StraighterLine," a purveyor of low-cost general education courses, to provide opportunities for those of our students who have been suspended for low grades to get their grades up and reenroll. Young, Duffy, and Olt -- all who have looked at StraighterLine courses -- agree that that this move would be unacceptable. The courses are low-cost, to be sure, but they are low-quality, and they cannot be expected to satisfy the outcomes of the CORE program. They advise that we not promote cheap, easy, shabby courses in place of real courses. Community colleges courses are better.

3:45 (2 minutes) The minutes from our December 3 meeting were approved.

3:47 (8 minutes) Chair shared information he has received that Grady Dixon, Dean of College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics, is working to come up with a set of test questions to help guide departments proposing courses to satisfy outcome set 2.1D (natural scientific mode of inquiry). Young suggested that there is resentment among more

than a few science faculty that we are being unreasonable in suggesting that the 2.1D proposals aren't really taking the 2.1D outcomes seriously (literally). This is a touchy matter. Perhaps Dixon's efforts will bear fruit.

3:55 (18 minutes) Chair expressed fear that the CORE program threatens to burden the Philosophy Department unreasonably. They are currently responsible for offering the only course we have approved so far to satisfy outcomes 1.5.1-2 (lower-division critical thinking), and as of now, only they have proposed courses to satisfy 2.1.E (philosophical mode of inquiry). Drabkin pointed out that the rubric approved last semester for PHIL 120: Introduction to Philosophy is a generic rubric that can be adapted to a very wide range of courses that present and critique philosophical arguments. Still, Chair worried that the philosophy department, currently one of the smaller departments on campus, couldn't handle it. Drabkin observed that it would be grotesque abuse of the modes of inquiry project -- which aims to introduce students to the basic ways of thinking required of an educated person -- to cut out the philosophical mode (which, remember, includes ethics, not something that students come to college knowing how to discuss intelligently). Chair plans to talk logistics with Carl Miller, Chair of the Philosophy Department.

4:13 (14 minutes) Marez reported that COMM 100: Fundamentals of Oral Communication is currently on the desk of the chair of Communication Studies. Chair announced that we are scheduled to discuss three proposals next week: the revision of TECS 391: Technology in Society, MLNG 201: Beginning French, and MLNG 225: Beginning Spanish.

4:27 (14 minutes) Chair floated the idea that we divide up responsibility for studying the CORE proposals coming our way this semester. The idea would be to reduce workload. There was no strong support for the proposal, but Orth is going to look into how we might make better use of the TEAMS program. The idea would be, not to reduce workload so much as to enable us to share our thoughts prior to the Thursday meeting. It might speed things along.

4:41 (2 minutes) The Writing Across the Curriculum committee in cooperation with TILT is organizing an educational mini-workshop over Zoom from 3:00 to 4:30 on Tuesday February 2. Duffy suggested that there is no reason in particular that members of our committee should feel obliged to attend. But she did mention that it will earn you a ten dollar gift certificate to Starbucks.

4:43 Meeting ended. We will meet next on Thursday January 28.

Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary

