

FHSU General Education Committee

Minutes

Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

Date: Thursday December 3, 2020

Time: 3:30-5:00

Location: <https://fhsu.zoom.us/j/94675596647>

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)

3:32 (1 minute) All members were present with the exception of Olt and Smith. Drabkin served as proxy for Olt, and Marez served as proxy for Smith. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:33 (1 minute) The minutes for the meeting on November 19 were approved.

3:34 (12 minutes) The committee met to discuss SOC 338: Sociology of the Family in America, which is being proposed to satisfy two outcomes sets: 1.4 (information literacy), and 2.1F (social scientific mode of inquiry). This was in preparation for our conversation with members of the Department of Sociology.

3:46 (39 minutes) Two members of the Department of Sociology, Christy Craig and Brett Zollinger, met with the committee to discuss the SOC 338 proposal. Regarding the information literacy outcomes, Chair asked whether SOC 362: Methods of Social Research might not be a better course for sociology to handle information literacy for sociology majors. Zollinger replied that the department is considering this, but has chosen to put SOC 338 forward to serve this purpose for now. Hartman asked where in the course the information literacy content will be taught. Craig answered that it will be taught more or less throughout the course. Regarding the social scientific mode outcomes, Drabkin asked if the assignment and rubric could be adjusted to better capture outcome 1; he noted, in particular, that the proposal doesn't ask students to identify applicable frameworks for explaining social phenomena "within a given scenario." Zollinger said that this change can be made easily enough, and will be done. The committee voted unanimously to **approve** the course **contingently** upon the agreed upon change being made to the outcome 1 assignment and rubric.

Additionally, Zollinger agreed to make similar changes in the 2.1F.1 assignment and rubric for SOC 140: Understanding Society, a proposal we approved some time ago.

4:25 (25 minutes) The committee's attention turned to a proposal for TECS 391: Technology in Society to satisfy the 3.4 outcomes (engaged global citizens). Most of the discussion concerned outcome 3, according to which students will "design a project in cooperation with others that addresses a complex, boundary-spanning issue." When the 3.4 outcomes were drafted, they were conceived as a progression: (1) describe an issue, (2) analyze an issue, and (3) design a project that addresses an issue. The third outcome was supposed to be practical in nature -- an attempt to wrestle with something difficult that people disagree about and propose a solution of sorts. Granted, this is more implicit than explicit in the outcomes, but that was the idea. The outcome 3 assignment being proposed is to design a multimedia presentation "that describes and defends each perspective" on an issue that the students will have researched. This seemed to the committee to be more descriptive than practical, which may be all right (we didn't put it to a vote), but the rubric proposed for assessing this outcome was judged inadequate. ("Proficient" is described this way: "The student delivered a multimedia presentation project as a collaborative group addressing 2 of 3 addressing globally spanning issues [*sic*], utilizing 3 of 5 professional communication skills. ___ Grammar ___ Voice Projection ___ Posture ___ Professional Dress ___ Group Content Knowledge.") The CORE assignment and rubric needs to focus on *addressing the issue well*, not on presentation niceties. Chretien will take the committee's thoughts back to the Department of Applied Technology. The proposal was **tabled** until we hear back from them.

4:50 (3 minutes) Hartman informed the committee that library staff will be running roundtables on Professional Development Day in January to discuss approaches to satisfying the information literacy outcomes.

4:53 Meeting ended. Our next meeting won't be until January.

Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary

