

# FHSU General Education Committee

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## Minutes

### Meeting Called by

Bradley Will, Chair

**Date:** Thursday April 1, 2021

**Time:** 3:30-4:45

**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)

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3:34 (1 minute) All members were eventually present with the exception of Marez and Schindler. Determined that a quorum was met.

3:35 (1 minute) The minutes from the March 18 meeting were approved.

3:36 (13 minutes) The committee considered an amended assessment tool (multiple choice quiz) and rubric for **SOC 310: Women's and Gender Studies**, which is being proposed for 1.4 (information literacy) and 2.1F (social scientific mode of inquiry outcomes). Specifically, the changes discussed were to the questions and rubric for 2.1F.1 ("identify, within a given scenario, applicable frameworks for explaining social phenomena"): one of the questions had been replaced and the total number of questions had been increased from five to ten. Not everyone was convinced that this quiz will adequately measure proficiency for 2.1F.1, but enough of the committee were satisfied for the proposal to be **approved**: 8 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstaining.

3:49 (7 minutes) Next we considered an amended rubric for **IDS 407: Global Challenges**, which is being proposed for 3.3 (engaged global citizens). The rubric having been brought better in line with the outcomes, the committee voted unanimously to **approve** the course.

3:56 (29 minutes) The committee considered next **BIOL 100: Human Biology** for 2.1E.1-2 (the two non-lab outcomes for the natural scientific mode of inquiry). Three motions came to a vote, one of which passed. First, there was a

motion to reject all proposals for these outcomes that attempt to assess them with multiple choice exams. This didn't pass. Second, there was a motion to table the proposal, and ask the department to take the recommendation of the faculty advisory panel regarding 2.1E.2 to heart:

For the second outcome, students are asked to evaluate the merits of natural scientific research. Many of the sample questions asked about the specifics of various types of biological work, rather than the merits of that work. A slight change in focus could help here; rather than asking about how a vaccine works (for example), the test could ask about the work used to develop a vaccine. Students should evaluate scientific research.

The motion also included a recommendation that the department consider how 2.1E.2 is handled in College of Science, Technology, and Mathematics' "Natural Sciences CORE Template." This motion passed -- so the proposal is **tabled**. The third motion was to require that the revised proposal include a revised syllabus, using a normal face-to-face version of the course, not a partially online hybrid version of the course, and having it conform to the conventions of the latest FHSU syllabus template. This motion did not pass. Chair will, however, point out, when meeting with the department about 2.1E.2, that the Academic Affairs committee will want to see a more generic and conventional syllabus.

4:25 (15 minutes) Next was **BIOL 200: Humans and the Environment**, which is also being proposed for 2.1E.1-2. The committee decided to **table** this proposal and ask that the department make three changes: (1) drop the point score from the rubric, as it conflates outcomes 1 and 2; (2) change the language on the rubric for outcome 2 so that it is more clearly focuses on *evaluating the merits* of examples of scientific research; and (3) more fully flesh out this barest sketch of a syllabus.

4:40 (19 minutes) Next, **BIOL 300: Human Heredity**, again for 2.1E.1-2. Here the vote went 11 in favor, 1 against to **table** the proposal and send it back for the language on the rubric to be cleaned up. It's not at all clear what they're saying.

4:45 Meeting ended. The next meeting will be Thursday April 8. In the interest of speeding things along, Chair encourages the committee to use TEAMS to formulate motions for the upcoming course proposals.

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Submitted by D. Drabkin, Recording Secretary

