**FHSU Liberal Education Committee**

**Minutes**

Meeting Called by

Shala Mills, Chair

Date: Tuesday 12/1/2016

Time: 3:00-4:00

Location: Rarick 312

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Bradley Will (AHSS)

Dmitry Gimon (BE)

Jessica Heronemus (BE)

Kevin Splichal (Ed)

Teresa Woods (Ed)

Glen McNeil (HBS)

Tanya Smith (HBS)

William Weber (STM)

Tom Schafer (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Helen Miles (Senate)

Megan Garcia (SGA)

Cody Scheck (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Kenton Russell (Provost)

Chapman Rackaway (Grad Sch)

3:03 (7 minutes) Meeting began. All members present except for Heronemus, Splichal, and Scheck. Established that a quorum was met. Chair made five announcements: (1) liberal education revision is still going forward, (2) the new program will not need Regents approval, (3) the university’s institutional effectiveness vice president, Sangki Min, will be invited to meet with the committee early in the spring semester, (4) Terry Rhodes of AAC&U, and formerly of Portland State University, will be meeting with the committee via teleconferencing at next Tuesday’s meeting, and (5) next Tuesday’s meeting will be the committee’s last meeting of the semester.

3:10 (55 minutes) The rest of the hour was spent examining the results of the Chair’s informal survey of committee members’ opinions on 12 questions, some very general, some rather specific, bearing on a future liberal education program at FHSU. There appeared to be considerable disagreement on 6 of the questions, but on the other 6 there was what might be described as a leaning towards consensus. These points of near agreement were the desirability of: (1) more flexibility in satisfying the program’s quantitative literacy objective, (2) more required writing at a more advanced level than is achieved in the Composition II course, (3) exploring “modes of inquiry” approaches (a.k.a., “strands” or “ways of knowing”), (4) more integrative studies courses, (5) an overall general education program of at least 40 hours, and (6) some flexibility in allowing students to satisfy general education requirements with courses required for their major (“double dipping”). Conversation ranged widely and informally, with nothing coming to a vote. Woods made the point that it is becoming unclear whether we are talking about designing a “liberal education or a “general education” program. (See terminology on the home page of the committee’s web site.) The answer appears to be both. It was observed that the six points of near agreement could be worked into a wide range of new programs including ones very similar to our current program and ones very different.

4:05 Meeting ended. The next scheduled meeting is for 3:00 PM on Tuesday, December 6.

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