**FHSU Liberal Education Committee**

**Minutes**

Meeting Called by

Shala Mills, Chair

Date: 9/8/2016

Time: 3:00-4:00

Location: FL 116

Members

Douglas Drabkin (AHSS)

Brad Will (AHSS)

Dmitry Gimon (BE)

Jessica Heronemus (BE)

Kevin Splichal (Ed)

Teresa Woods (Ed)

Glen McNeil (HBS)

Tanya Smith (HBS)

Bill Weber (STM)

Tom Schafer (STM)

Robyn Hartman (Lib)

Megan Garcia (SGA)

Cody Scheck (SGA)

Cheryl Duffy (Goss Engl)

Chap Rackaway (Grad Sch)

A quorum was maintained throughout the meeting, although some individual members arrived late or left early. All members appointed to the committee were present for most of the meeting with the exception of Weber (STM) who was unable to attend. Still not appointed to the committee is a representative from the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate.

3:05 Meeting began. Determined that quorum was achieved. Garcia was introduced to the committee, and brief introduction of committee members followed.

3:07 Discussion began of the proposed focusing of the goals and objectives. See appendix from 9/1/16 minutes. It was decided that the committee hold off discussion of proposed objective 1.2 (“mathematical competence”) until Weber can be present.

3:11 First question (11 minute discussion): Should last year’s four goals be reduced to three? The idea would be to combine last year’s “personal and social responsibility” and “applied and collaborative learning” into the proposal’s “living responsibly,” although at this point the committee only voted to merge goals 3 and 4 into a single goal without discussion of the title of those merged goals. Splichal asked if we should take this up after having brought the goals and objectives to a vote in faculty senate last semester. Chair replied that she has spoken about this with the faculty senate president. It is her understanding that revisions aimed at improving and tightening the work done last year would not be inappropriate. The committee voted in favor of moving from four to three goals: 10 in favor, 2 against, 2 abstaining.

3:22 Second question (6 minute discussion): Should the name of goal 1 (“intellectual and practical skills”) be changed? After a brief consideration of options, including “core skills,” “foundational skills,” “general education,” and variations thereof, committee voted unanimously in favor of changing the name to “core skills.”

3:28 Third question (22 minute discussion): Should the objectives for “information literacy” and “technology literacy” be merged into a single objective? A complex discussion ensued. At one point it appeared the committee was close to accepting “Students will be able to effectively and responsibly gather, evaluate, create, and apply information, using appropriate technology when needed.” But this never went to a vote. Gimon noted that elements of the original technology objective are missing from the proposed merger, in particular, that “students will understand the relationship between technology and society.” Drabkin pointed out that the relations between technology and society are many and complex and belong, not under “core skills,” but under “broad and integrated knowledge.” Gimon agreed that this could be moved to goal two, perhaps under the proposed 2.2 (“integrative and cross-disciplinary thinking”), but that we should make note of this and come back to it later. Some discussion related to the appropriate level of specificity for program objectives. Woods warned against getting caught up in details which more appropriately belong at the level of learning outcomes. She urged the committee to keep focused on the big picture – goals and objectives – and recommended that we save discussion of the more specific outcomes for that stage of the committee’s work. The committee voted in favor of maintaining the separation of information and technology literacy as two distinct objectives: 9 in favor, 3 against, none abstaining.

4:02 Regarding the proposed merger of the information literacy and technology literacy objectives, Rackaway cautioned that the committee not waste time discussing changes, and putting changes to a vote, that will not substantially improve the overall quality of the program.

4:12 The Chair charged the committee to keep up the discussion of the proposed objectives on the committee’s BlackBoard wiki and to pick up where we left off next Thursday. Even if members don’t post on the wiki, they should come to the next meeting having read and thought through what has been posted.

4:14 Meeting ended.

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