**Liberal Education Committee**

**18 September 2015**

**204 McCartney Hall**

**3:00 – 4:30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

**The meeting was called to order at 3:06 p.m.** by Chairperson Rackaway, who recognized a quorum was present.

**Present:** Dr. Chapman Rackaway (Chair), Ms. April Terry, Ms. Jessica Heronemus, Dr. Carol Patrick, Dr. Tom Schafer, Dr. Jeff Burnett, Dr. Brad Will, Ms. Robyn Hartman, Mr. Kenton Russell, Mr. Cody Scheck, Mr. Ben Cline, Dr. Kenny Rigler, Dr. Teresa Woods. **Absent:** Dr. Bill Weber, Dr. Tim Crowley.

**Agenda Item 2:** Minutes from September 10th meeting were reviewed. Mr. Russell moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Ms. Heronemus, and the motion passed.

**Agenda Item 3:** Chairperson Rackaway led discussion on whether the committee could advocate for the DQP as a starting point for generating a new Liberal Education plan or not.

* Strengths and weaknesses raised in the September 10 meeting were reviewed.
* The ad hoc committee (Patrick, Heronemus, Harman) tasked with mapping current FHSU General Education learning objectives to DQP’s areas of proficiency reported on their work (see distributed documents). The DQP was seen as allowing for flexibility of individual institutions, while also providing a framework that is widely used and accepted.
* Discussion of the pros and cons of including FHSU’s graduate programs in the Committee’s final recommendations raised certain issues:
	+ A rationale for including graduate level programs would be assess graduate outcomes in a way that would provide external validity.
	+ A successful undergraduate transition to DQP would serve as a model if graduate program leaders wanted to align their programs to DQP.
* Including associate degrees in the Committee’s final recommendations was discussed.
* Must strike the balance between flexibility vs. challenging students to get out of their comfort zones by taking courses across various colleges. Must balance depth (of a single discipline) with breadth (as seen in learning outcomes).
* Chairperson Rackaway thanked the ad hoc committee members, Dr. Patrick, Ms. Heronemus, and Ms. Hartman, for their work and report.

**Agenda Item 4:** Chairperson Rackaway proposed a 3-phase strategic structure for enacting the Liberal Education Review**:**

1. Develop Learning Outcomes – will need a great deal of input from across campus
2. Develop Assessments – at the department and program levels
3. Develop Curriculum Plan / Course Schedule

Discussion about this topic included the following points:

* Student Credit Hours (SCH) have historically been the predominate measure of student success and achievement. SCHs translate into enrollment in certain courses, and a reduction in SCHs could be an existential threat to some departments or faculty lines.
* Should development of curriculum come prior to development of assessments? The 3-step process outlined is supported by research, with “assessments” considered in terms of “What is the evidence the learning goal is achieved?” This, in turn, drives the curriculum development. In reality, it was recognized as an iterative or spiraling process.
* Data from last year’s General Education meetings for re-examining the GenEd program could be valuable, at least to inform us of this input as we move forward. Chairperson Rackaway will post these data in our document repository.
* Time frame was discussed. New Liberal Education program should be ready to implement in Fall 2017. Due to spring Freshman Enrollment, this means it should be ready by Spring 2017.
* The LEAP assessment rubrics from AAC&U could be valuable DQP-friendly instruments that could be adapted.

**DECISIONS: The Liberal Education Committee agreed through consensus to:**

* **Focus on the baccalaureate level only, not graduate or associate levels;**
* **Adopt the DQP as the template for reviewing and generating recommendations for FHSU’s Liberal Education program; and**
* **The 3-phase strategic structure will be used in this process, starting with a focus on learning objectives.**

**Announcements:**

* Chairperson Rackaway will provide important documents for committee members to read, including a draft of the Liberal Education Plan, in an online repository, details to be communicated via e-mail.
* Next meetings:
	+ **Thursday, September 24, 3:00 p.m., Rarick Hall 312**
	+ **Tuesday, September 29, 3:00 p.m., location TBA**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Teresa M. Woods, Secretary.