1. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm and the minutes from the meeting of December 3, 2010 were approved with the addition of the date for Seth’s meeting with the Science and Math chairs and the word “colleges” to the next to the last line about Marion’s meetings.

2. Because Kevin needed to leave early, we revised the agenda and began with an overview from Kevin and Marion of material from Bill Slanger and the OIRA about NDSU alumni. Our discussion focused on six of Slanger’s summary statements, especially the first three:
   - Skills NDSU graduates feel less well prepared for in their jobs are 1) Recognizing and using effective communication skills, 2) Living my personal and professional life according to my own standard/ethic, and 3) Developing and using effective leadership skills
   - Regarding General Education courses: In total NDSU has caught up with National Norms; however note NDSU’s lack of competitiveness in the Strongly Agree category and percentages in this category have declined over the years – a basic theme.
   - Regarding Opportunities for student involvement in campus activities, NDSU scores extremely well in this item. But then why is there a gap between the leadership skills needed on the job and NDSU’s impact on the development of leadership skills? – again, lack of efficiency of delivery of what is already on campus is suggested.
   - Regarding level of Cultural involvement, NDSU scores are abysmal.
   - Regarding level of Community involvement, NDSU scores have gone down over the years in all three response categories to where NDSU is considerably behind National Norms.
   - NDSU scores have plummeted recently with regard to Political involvement to where it is hardly in the same ball park as National Norms.

Committee members had a lively discussion which generated a number of questions:
   - What were the actual questions on the survey(s)?
   - How large were the sample sizes?
   - What was the distribution of the alumni (recent and non-recent graduates)?
   - Is the same group (recent or non-recent) being surveyed each time?
   - Will the alumni survey be done again this year?
   - How does this correlate with NSSE data?
In addition to questions about the information from OIRA, Committee members brought up the following points about information from alumni:

- Do we want to conduct our own survey with questions that are much more specifically targeted to particular general education outcomes? (The answer was “Yes.”)
- How did student gain skills they might have (for example, leadership) outside of classes?
- How do we make opportunities to develop leadership more effective? What are the barriers students presently face?

3. Larry reported that the effort to revise the NDUS GE requirements is not going as fast as he had hoped. RaNelle reported a similar conversation with Lisa Johnson, NDUS Director of Articulation and Transfer. On the positive side, Larry reported that UND was able to move to an outcomes based system and that their Director of Essential Studies, Tom Steen, believed they were able to achieve their objectives within the existing state framework. Steen believes that UND’s present program is not all that different from the major revision that University of Nebraska-Lincoln just completed. We discussed how we should be trying to anticipate educational changes and create a more forward-looking program. Larry mentioned that the Degree Qualifications Profile from the Lumina Foundation, which he emailed on November 12, 2010, focused on benchmarks for learning outcomes, not on credits and seat-time. Lisa noted that both the Gates and Hewlitt foundations are emphasizing outcome focused education in K-12 and we should be preparing to engage in the ongoing re-thinking of education. She will send a link to members who want more information about this.

4. We also discussed other information it would be good to get from the OIRA as we present our case for re-examining GE to the campus:

- How does the Fall 2010 Statistical Portrait of NDSU on the OIRA website (Numbers of Ranked Faculty and Lecturers, Numbers of Graduate Assistants and Fellows, etc.) compare with 1991 data?
- Does the OIRA have updated information on who teaches GE classes at NDSU and how that has changed?

5. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 with the rest of the agenda awaiting our next meeting, Wednesday, January 19 at noon.

Submitted by Larry Peterson and Marion Harris