Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for March 7, 2012
9:00-9:50 am, Peace Garden Room, Memorial Union

Present: Marion Harris, RaNelle Ingalls, Kevin McCaul, Charlene Myhre, Lisa Nordick, Larry Peterson, Seth Rasmussen, Susan Ray-Degges, Carolyn Schnell

Absent: Rajesh Kavasseri, Andrew Mara (Kenya), Cynthia Naughton, Herb Snyder

1. We approved the minutes from 02/29/12, emailed on 02/29/12.

2. Larry contacted Biotechnology, Equine Studies, General Agriculture, International Studies, Social Science, and Women and Gender Studies about the Capstone DQP project. These programs were all apparently missed in the initial mailing. The majors for General Agriculture and Social Science do not have capstones. In both cases students take an appropriate capstone from one of the contributing majors. Equine Studies was included in the template response for Animal Science, but they did not submit all of the five possible capstone syllabi for Animal Science. We have still not received some capstone syllabi and one department has not responded at all. Kevin asked Larry to send copies of the next reminders to the appropriate Deans.

3. We discussed the report on interesting ideas from the AAC&U General Education and Assessment conference which Larry and Herb attended. Larry noted the caveats Herb had about how useful electronic portfolios were for employers. Lisa, Marion, and Kevin all noted how rapidly higher education is changing and that we need to be thinking about and planning for how different things will be in the next ten to twenty years.

4. We discussed the Pedagogical Luncheon presentation on April 3 by Kevin, Rajesh, Seth, and Susan. Kevin asked about our “take away” message. Larry thought there should be three parts: 1) we asked you what you thought; 2) here’s what you told us; and 3) GE revision will most likely focus on student learning outcomes, not conventional categories of course content. The presenters liked the four part framework suggested by Herb at the last meeting, but thought they should also highlight significant differences among the groups. Susan will emphasize the big themes across the open ended meetings with faculty and staff. She will also point out some interesting differences and those neat ideas that arose. Larry will send Kevin the slides he has used for Senate presentations about CULE. Kevin, Rajesh, Seth, and Susan will meet after spring break to develop and hone their presentation.

5. We discussed the existing CULE Timeline, noting that we were doing quite well. The areas we have missed or changed are: 1) revising the Accreditation homepage (Lisa is looking into this); 2) meeting with local employers and alumni (we decided last fall this would not be productive); 3) completing meetings with all academic departments (we have met with almost 500 faculty and staff, but are still missing one college); and 4) our pedagogical luncheon date was moved to April.
6. As part of our Timeline discussion, we concluded that after the Pedagogical Luncheon we will have two priorities. The first is to begin our brainstorming about the student learning outcomes to bring to the Faculty Senate next fall, keeping in mind that these outcomes will need to be assessed. After completing that brainstorming, the second task we will turn to is preparing to analyze and then analyzing the DQP material. We will need to create an instrument to evaluate the responses. Larry will check with Linda Charlton-Gunderson to see if we can get the responses to the survey separately for each department or if we can only get the collated summary. We think it will work best if the syllabi and the responses are analyzed by CULE members who have the most familiarity with the particular discipline.

7. Marion and Larry will look over the OIRA data we have and meet with Bill Slanger. We will focus on the data he has that is directly relevant to our task and can triangulate with our information from the GDC survey and the department meetings.

8. Larry will update the Assessment Committee about CULE’s progress if they meet on March 23 as previously scheduled. Rajesh will update Program Review. Larry and Herb (?) will update the Deans and the Heads and Chairs after the Pedagogical Luncheon. Marion will update Academic Affairs Committee at the end of the spring term. RaNelle and Char will update the Staff Senate in June.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2:00-2:50, PEACE GARDEN