Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for March 19, 2012
200-2:50 pm, Peace Garden Room, Memorial Union

Present: Marion Harris, RaNelle Ingalls, Rajesh Kavasseri, Kevin McCaul, Charlene Myhre, Cynthia Naughton, Lisa Nordick, Larry Peterson, Carolyn Schnell

Absent: Andrew Mara (Kenya), Seth Rasmussen, Susan Ray-Degges, Herb Snyder

1. We approved the minutes from 03/07/12, emailed on 03/07/12.

2. Later this week, Larry will send a reminder to majors (with copies to the Deans) who still have not completed the template or sent us their syllabi for the capstone DQP project. We are still missing template responses from two majors.

3. We discussed the report from the GDC Survey from Advisory Board Members, the combined report from the GDC Survey from Employers and Advisory Board Members, and the updated spreadsheet summarizing the rankings, the means, and the gaps on the GDC surveys and our next task of brainstorming about student learning outcomes. Some of the important points that came up were:
   - We need to align the learning outcomes with NDSU’s mission and core values. [We looked at NDSU’s mission statement. It is quite generic (except for the mention of “land-grant”) and contains no direct references to students, learning, or general education.]
   - How will we put an NDSU stamp on our program if it is based on the AAC&U’s Essential Learning Outcomes and/or the Degree Qualifications Profile?
   - We should look at the data critically, but at the same time we need to address the surveys and they should guide our work.
   - We need to make sure the learning outcomes we forward to the Faculty Senate can be assessed. The VALUE rubrics from AAC&U (http://www.aacu.org/VALUE/rubrics/index_p.cfm) can help us.
   - We need to keep in mind that we were asking two different questions on the GDC Surveys when we asked the groups to “rate how well our current general education courses at NDSU prepare the average student in the areas listed below” and to “share your ideas about what will be important for future NDSU students” and to “rate how important each of the following is for all NDSU undergraduates.” Some items were rated highly on the first question but not on the second. That may mean that respondents assumed NDSU would keep doing a good job on those outcomes where students are presently doing well.
   - We need to include students in this discussion. Should we go to the Student Senate? Should we try (again) to get student government to nominate student members to CULE? Should we have an open/vacant learning outcome to be completed by students?
• How will our efforts be affected by the SBHE “Maximizing Results Through Efficiencies” initiative?

4. We decided on a multi-step process to brainstorm about student learning outcomes.
• We will each look over all the sources of information we have (GDC Surveys, Notes from Meetings with Colleagues, relevant OIRA data, GE background material we have looked at or posted, etc.)
• Each of us will bring a prioritized list of student learning outcomes to our April 16th meeting. This can be as many outcomes as we wish.
• At our April 30th meeting, we will use the GDC to discuss the refined and combined list of outcomes from the April 16th meeting. Larry and Susan attended a FORWARD leadership workshop last week which had some good information on avoiding “group think.” Larry will share those points with CULE and we believe that using the GDC will also help us avoid “group think” when we brainstorm about the student learning outcomes.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2:00-2:50, PEACE GARDEN