Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for June 19, 2012
1:30-3:30, Peace Garden Room Memorial Union

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

Absent: Rajesh Kavasseri, Carolyn Schnell, Herb Snyder

1. We approved the minutes from 04/30/12 and 05/09/12 as distributed by email.

2. We reviewed the report from Mark Hanson from OIRA in which he reanalyzed the data from our surveys about learning outcomes from alumni, employers, faculty, staff, and students and compared the results with seven different OIRA data sets. CULE members were extremely pleased with the high quality of these reports and were glad to learn that in almost all cases the results are consistent across all the data sets. In addition, members found the overlap between the tables on the Top Ten Future Importance Ratings, the Top Ten Largest Gap Rankings Between Performance Now and Future Importance, and Average Gap Size Rank particularly revealing. These reports will definitely help us both as we craft a set of student learning outcomes to present to the Faculty Senate and as we explain and defend the choices we made. We agreed to post these reports on the CULE homepage.

3. We concluded that our next step toward agreeing on Student Learning Outcomes to present to the Faculty Senate was to have a subcommittee prepare at least one (possibly more) SLO model. Andy noted these might include different ways to think about how students gain or demonstrate mastery of the outcomes (as individuals, in groups, or through experiences). Andy, Marion, Larry (and maybe Rajesh) will work on this.

4. Susan presented her draft of an instrument to evaluate the DQP capstone data. We decided this was an excellent start and Susan, Char, and Cindy volunteered to pilot test the spreadsheet on a sample of different types of capstone courses. Marion noted that the evaluation form/spreadsheet should be set up to use coding that could be easily transferred to a statistical analysis program.

5. Larry distributed a brief summary of the Association for General and Liberal Studies Capstone Project working session at St. Joseph’s College that he and Susan attended in June. In his summary, Larry asked it the NDSU General Education Committee should evaluate actual samples of student capstone work for direct evidence of student learning for our DQP report for the HLC. We decided to postpone action on this until the middle of the fall semester. That would still give us time to ask faculty members to collect samples from the fall.

Submitted by Larry Peterson