Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for February 4, 2014, 9:00-10:00, Peace Garden

Present: Cole Davidson, RaNelle Ingalls, Lisa Nordick, Larry Peterson, Seth Rasmussen, Susan Ray-Degges, Carolyn Schnell, and Beth Twomey.

Recorder: Kelly Hoyt

Unable to attend: Marion Harris, Rajesh Kavasseri, Andrew Mara, Cynthia Naughton, Amy Rupiper Taggart, Kent Sandstrom, Herbert Snyder and Kevin Walsh.

Housekeeping:
- Rajesh contacted Larry and explained that he is on two search committees for Electrical Engineering and will be unable to attend the CULE meetings this semester. He asked Larry if the committee would prefer to have the new department chair, Scott Smith, attend meetings in his absence. Larry asked the committee for input and they agreed that since it was only a temporary absence and we are in the final stages of our work a replacement wasn’t necessary. They suggested having Larry stay in touch with Rajesh about the progress the committee is making and getting feedback from him to share at future meetings.

1. The minutes from 01/28/14 emailed on 01/28/14 were approved.

2. Seth was able to reach Rhonda Magel and discuss math-based critical reasoning with her. She did not have any issues with this concept. She suggested STAT 330 might be a good fit. Larry suggested coming back to this discussion after we have completed our Breadth of Knowledge components.

3. The committee continued discussing the Breadth of Knowledge (Understanding and Applying Technology, Understanding Natural and Physical Worlds, Understanding Human Societies, and Personal and Social Responsibility) which may include “embedded” requirements in Critical Thinking, Cultural Diversity, Global Perspectives, and Service Learning.

- Seth’s six floating credits
  - We looked at a number of implementation problems for this model.
    - What happens to students who change majors after 2-3 years of attendance? They may end up being short a few credits or courses and that will impact when they graduate.
    - How will this affect transfer students?
    - What will happen to students who do not get admitted into professional programs in the sciences and who then change to non-science majors?
  - RaNelle and Cole both thought that Registration and Records could manage the “record-keeping” needed for such an option.
  - On the other hand, RaNelle thought we could not have both “embedded” GE credits in which departments require certain GE courses and floating credits.
    - Because many departments rely on these embedded GE credits, this seems like an obstacle we cannot overcome.

- Larry suggested that we put 3 credits in the Personal and Social Responsibility Outcome and 3 credits in Understanding the Natural and Physical Worlds.
Personal and Social Responsibility is not tied to any particular content and could be met by the right course in many different areas.

- Outcomes and Courses
  - Lisa suggested that we think about flex credits. Courses could meet more than one set of outcomes and be counted in multiple outcomes, but students could only count the course in one outcome.
    - For example, a course could meet both Understanding Human Societies and Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, but a student could not have it fulfill both outcomes.
  - RaNelle suggested looking at the current courses we have now to see how many could fit into the two categories and be counted in either place.
- Lisa asked about the earlier email discussion concerning minors as GE components.
  - We agreed on two 16 credit options
    - A minor such as World Hunger or Great Books and Great Ideas.
    - A certificate for an applied skill set such as Sustainable Design.
- Lab courses/applied learning – Are the present one-credit labs in the sciences valuable for non-science majors?
  - Larry and Kevin Walsh discussed this last week. Larry thinks that Student Government will ask about this in one of their new weekly polls.

4. Larry suggested we continue this discussion at the next meeting; hopefully we will have more people in attendance to provide feedback on these options.

Next meeting Tuesday, February 11th in Peace Garden at 9 am