Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for
March 11, 2014, 9:00-10:00, Peace Garden

Present: Cole Davidson, Marion Harris, RaNelle Ingalls, Andrew Mara, Lisa Nordick, Larry Peterson, Amy Rupiper Taggart, Kent Sandstrom, Carolyn Schnell, and Beth Twomey.

Recorder: Kelly Hoyt

Unable to attend: Rajesh Kavasseri, Cynthia Naughton, Seth Rasmussen, Susan Ray-Degges, Herbert Snyder, and Kevin Walsh.

Housekeeping:

- Larry asked committee members if they will be here next week to attend the scheduled meeting. Since there were quite a few people gone, he will send out an email and see if we should have the meeting or cancel it.
- Larry, Carolyn, Amy, Andy, and Kent attended the Pedagogical Luncheon on Monday, March 10 on What Employers Are Seeking When Recruiting NDSU Grads. There were representatives of four different local employers who spoke about what they would like new graduates to be able to do when they are enter the work force.
  - They want students to be able to connect the dots in what they've learned during their education and know how to implement it in their work.
  - They want students to know how to think critically, communicate, collaborate, apply knowledge and be independent thinkers. They want many of the things that should come out of a robust general education.
  - RaNelle feels that there is a gap between high school and college. Teachers, parents, and advisors in high school don't prepare students for the challenges and structure of college education.
  - A number of committee members felt that there was a negative undertone to the speakers and what they think we are doing here in preparing (or not preparing) students to enter the work force.
  - Andy suggested compiling a brief response to the speakers based on the CULE survey of employers. Larry thought this was a good idea and will work on pulling some information from the survey.
- Larry distributed copies he has received of the Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools.

1. The minutes from 03/04/14 emailed on 03/04/14 were approved.

2. The committee continued to review the draft BC/GE Model with an initial focus on the “embedded/integrated” requirements (Cultural Diversity, Global Perspectives, and Personal and Social Responsibility).
   - Marion asked if it had to be called “cultural” diversity. Could it just be diversity? There could be biological or physical diversity and that would broaden the courses that could be counted in this category.
   - RaNelle would recommend that CD and GP not be embedded into select classes scattered throughout the various learning outcomes; this causes misunderstanding and frustration when students satisfy all core learning outcomes and credits but still have to complete additional course work just for the sake of satisfying CD or GP. If these two learning
outcomes are required for graduation as a part of Bison Core then these areas should be earned for credit and not embedded sporadically with other courses throughout multiple outcomes where they could be missed along the way.

- Marion suggested having faculty assist in embedding diversity into a variety of courses that could satisfy this requirement. We have a very diverse group of faculty that could be a potential source of incorporating diversity into the GE curriculum.
  - Amy sees a limitation to this approach though because it may seem to put “diverse” faculty on the spot. Students should be responsible for their choices and the way it is set up now, makes the most sense to her.
- Marion asked if the model had to be complete or if we could present a couple of options about diversity to get feedback from the campus on what would work best. They might even have a completely different suggestion on how to incorporate CD and GP.
- Lisa backtracked a little bit to the Horizon Expander category. She wondered if the Horizon Expander could be satisfied in the major or if it should be where CD and GP are located.
  - Larry reminded the committee that the purpose of the Horizon Expander was to get students outside their disciplinary comfort zone.
  - We agreed to change the “note” on Horizon Expander from “Area designated by major, but must counterbalance emphasis of major” to “Outcome designed to complement major.”
- Kent suggested embedding CD and GP into the AHSS or Horizon Expander courses because then the CD and GP requirements would be directly linked to the outcomes.
  - After much discussion we came to the conclusion that we may need revise the six outcomes and add a seventh focusing on Diversity. We would need to go back to the Faculty Senate to get that approved, but we need to present the best possible model we can.
- Larry asked committee members think about this for the next meeting. If we need to change the outcomes and bring back to the Faculty Senate for another vote, now is the time to do it.
- If we decide to link each of the outcomes to a definite number of credits (such as Diversity), then it seems like we should do the same for Personal and Social Responsibility.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 at 9 am in Hidatsa.