Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for September 17, 2013, 8:30-9:30, Room of Nations

Present: Cole Davidson, Marion Harris, RaNelle Ingalls, Cynthia Naughton, Lisa Nordick, Larry Peterson, Seth Rasmussen, Susan Ray-Degges, Kent Sandstrom, Carolyn Schnell, Beth Twomey, and Kevin Walsh.

Unable to attend: Rajesh Kavasseri, Andrew Mara, and Herbert Snyder

1. We approved the corrected minutes from the 09/10/13 meeting, emailed on 09/10/13. Lisa spotted two typos and Larry added that we discussed the Faculty Boards at University of Maryland, College Park as an interesting feature.

2. We introduced ourselves and welcomed our new member Kevin Walsh, who will be representing NDSU students.

3. Cynthia presented two draft rubrics for reviewing and evaluating GE programs.
   - She emphasized that clearly defining the criteria was a crucial first step.
   - Option 1: Decision Rubric
     - Options are both ranked and weighted in terms of how important they are.
     - RaNelle noted this would allow us to “build in” what we know from our campus meetings and surveys to tailor this better to NDSU.
     - Cynthia recommends using a non-continuous weighting scale (2-4-6-8) to differentiate the options more clearly.
   - Option 2: Comparison Chart
     - Options are simply ranked, but not weighted
     - This is simpler, but omits the value of how important these are.
   - We agreed Option 1 would be more useful.

4. We began by defining the criteria in the order they appeared in the minutes for 09/10/13 and also on Option 1 from Cynthia. We agreed that the definitions should be aspirational.
   - We should think about sub-components for some criteria. For example, in staffing or class size we might have some classes taught only by faculty and we might have both some small and some very large classes.
   - Class Size
     - We presently have some GE classes (lower division writing courses) limited to 22 students.
     - We aspire to having one additional first year class with an enrollment limit of 25.
       - This might be an “issues,” “controversies,” or “inquiry,” type course.
     - We aspire to limiting the enrollment in the capstone courses to 25.
   - Credits
     - Given current NDUS policy, we aspire to a goal of 36 credits.
     - Counting 189 and Upper Division Writing, we currently have 40 credits.
   - Integrated into the major
     - Currently, departments make this decision.
       - Prescribed GE courses that are double-counted in the major are common at NDSU.
       - Some schools ban double-counting in GE.
• Marion thought that collaboration between the major and the outside department would be ideal so that courses were truly integrated.
• Beth noted that in the new information-based economy employers are placing increasing value on students who are “well-rounded” because they have knowledge and skills outside their majors.
• We aspire to a balanced choice for students in which any double-counted course definitely serves the purpose of general education.

5. We decided to add student/faculty ratio as a potential criteria.

6. Larry and Kent will meet with the Provost to discuss resource issues.

7. On September 24 we will continue discussing and defining the criteria. Although some may go more quickly, Kent suggested we limit ourselves to a maximum of ten minutes on any single criterion.

Submitted by Larry Peterson

Next Meeting: 8:30, Tuesday, September 24, Room of Nations