Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for September 24, 2013, 8:30-9:20, Room of Nations

Present: Marion Harris, RaNelle Ingalls, Andrew Mara, Larry Peterson, Susan Ray-Degges, Carolyn Schnell, and Beth Twomey

Unable to attend: Cole Davidson, Rajesh Kavasseri, Cynthia Naughton, Lisa Nordick, Seth Rasmussen, Kent Sandstrom, Herbert Snyder, and Kevin Walsh.

1. We approved the minutes from the 09/17/13 meeting, emailed on 09/17/13.

2. Larry reported on his meeting on September 13 with Student Body President Robert Lauf and Student Body Vice-President Erik Diederich about getting student input in the model building phase. They suggested meeting with the 189 mentors, the various student ambassador groups, and the new Campus Improvement Commission that is connected with the Congress of Student Organizations.

3. Larry shared a handout on the recently revised GE at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (http://generaled.unlv.edu/). It is vertically integrated with first and second year seminars and milestone and culminating experiences integrated into the major.

4. Dean Wittrock and the Graduate Council have questions about 400/600 courses that are also GE because they wonder if the specialization expected of graduate education is compatible with GE. We should keep that question in mind in the new model.

5. We continued our work on defining the criteria for evaluating GE programs and options.

- Outside of Class Experiences
  - This are highly valued both in our surveys and in recent national surveys of employers.
  - Many NDSU majors have practicums, internships, field experiences, clinical rotations, or co-op experiences.
  - We aspire to have this opportunity for all NDSU graduates.
- Staffing (who teaches)
  - We have fewer adjuncts (overall) than many campuses.
  - Younger faculty would like to get involved, but need to get tenured.
  - Our adjunct staffing would be more stable if we could “lock them in” earlier. This might involve eliminating late registration and admission, and providing better compensation and working conditions.
  - We aspire to a GE staffing protocol that maximizes instructor continuity, and professional development and support for all GE instructors.
- Sequencing
  - We have some rudimentary sequencing at present: 189, English 120, Communication 110, Upper Division Writing, Capstone Experiences.
  - We do not aspire to increased sequencing as a priority.
• Relationship to Accredited Programs
  • This is essential for NDSU.
  • We aspire to checking our GE model on a case-by-case basis with each of the 29 (or so) accredited programs.

• Gateway Courses
  • Although most of the GE gateway courses for majors are in Science and Mathematics (such as BIOL 220, CHEM 117, CHEM 121, and MATH 165), there are also university-wide GE gateway courses such as ENGL 120.
  • We discussed having GE gateway courses tailored for particular majors. This could help students, but there are obviously staffing issues if one begins to have chemistry for the health professions, etc.
  • We do not know how the new Pathways admission model will affect the proportion of students who are not well-prepared to succeed.
  • We aspire to a GE system in which gateway courses prepare students for their future majors.

6. On October 1 we will finish discussing and defining the criteria. Kent and Larry will report on their meeting on resource issues with the Provost.

Submitted by Larry Peterson

Next Meeting: 8:30, Tuesday, October 1, Peace Garden