Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE) Minutes for November 12, 2013, 8:30-9:30, Room of Nations Room

Present: Cole Davidson, Marion Harris, RaNelle Ingalls, Rajesh Kavasseri, Cynthia Naughton, Lisa Nordick, Larry Peterson, Kent Sandstrom, Carolyn Schnell, and Beth Twomey.

Unable to attend: Andrew Mara, Seth Rasmussen, Susan Ray-Degges, Herbert Snyder, and Kevin Walsh.

1. The minutes from 11/05/13, revised and emailed on 11/06/13 were approved.

2. The committee reviewed the report from Larry on his conversation with Mark Meister, Communication Department Chair, about upper division communication. Everyone agreed that we should have it, but which of the three options (a Communications Center, an upper division class, or workshops integrated with the capstones) would work best and be feasible? The availability of resources is the key question.

3. We continued our work on the components for our collective model, checking them against the findings from the surveys and meetings.
   - Completed Communication
     - Lisa supports having a Communication Center. She thinks this would provide an ideal learning environment for the students. Her department is working on developing a Design Hub (or Idea Space) a center for innovation and interdisciplinary work, with labs for students. Architecture and the College of Business are working on similar projects. She thinks having the Communication Centers could tie Mark’s three proposed options together. She thought Communication could be in charge of the center, but it would need to engage faculty expertise from particular disciplines.
       - Larry asked Kent and Lisa to work together and speak with Mark about implementing Lisa’s suggestion. Does Mark think it would work and is he interested in spearheading a proposal?
     - Lisa suggested having a 3 credit, hybrid course would be beneficial. It might connect with students who are completing internships, undergraduate research, etc.
     - The committee thought that maybe this course should be completed earlier in the students’ education rather than as an upper division requirement in order to reinforce the skills from COMM 110 and prepare students for their majors.
     - Lisa moved to have a 3 credit, sophomore level course, with English 120 and Communication 110 as pre-requisites, RaNelle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
       - RaNelle reminded us that ENGL 110 cannot be a remedial course (according to NDUS policy). Consequently, Communication component is:
         - Written Communication (6 credits lower division)
           - ENGL 110 (most students get credit via their ACT scores)
           - ENGL 120
         - Upper Division Writing (3 credits upper division)
         - Oral Communication (6 credits lower division)
           - COMM 110
           - COMM 2xx via Communication Center
• Completed Capstone – The capstone will continue to be integrated into the major but it must meet GE outcomes.
  ✓ Kent moved that the capstone should be a minimum of 3 credits and have a common set of minimum expectations that would be monitored by General Education. Marion seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

• Began work on Critical Thinking
  ✓ Larry asked Seth to speak with Benton Duncan (Mathematics) and Rhonda Magel (Statistics) about the proposal for a math-based critical thinking. He wasn’t at the meeting to discuss if this had taken place.
  ✓ We had an extensive discussion about how critical thinking and quantitative reasoning were not the same and that students need to be well prepared in both areas. Larry noted that NDSU students do very poorly in the “critique an argument” section of the CLA.
  ✓ Marion and Cynthia suggested that a critical thinking class might be better at the sophomore level.
  ✓ RaNelle suggested changing the name Quantitative Reasoning because a lot of students don’t know what that means. Should it be called problem solving? A lot of committee members agreed on this.
  ✓ Marion suggested we should start the next meeting with the First Year Experience.

4. Questions, concerns, issues, or brainstorms about our journey
  • Larry informed the committee that Amy Rupiper Taggart will be the new GE Director. Her appointment will be in January 2014, but her exact duties have not been agreed upon. Larry will be meeting with her later this week to discuss her responsibilities and her relationship with CULE since she will be in charge of coordinating the implementation of the GE model and chairing the GE committee.

Next meeting, Tuesday, November 19, 8:30am, Room of Nations