Present: Cole Davidson, Noah Engels, RaNelle Ingalls, Andrew Mara, Lisa Nordick, Larry Peterson, Susan Ray-Degges, Amy Rupiper Taggart, Kent Sandstrom, and Beth Twomey

Recorder: Kelly Hoyt

Unable to attend: Marion Harris, Rajesh Kavasseri, Cynthia Naughton, Seth Rasmussen, Carolyn Schnell, and Herbert Snyder

1. Approve recent minutes – Minutes from 10/21/14 have been typed up but have not distributed yet. Larry forwarded to Provost Ingram for her review. They will be sent out when he receives them back. The minutes from 10/14/14 were approved.

2. Brief Updates
   • Strategic Planning Task Force on Learning – Larry has been sending things to the co-chairs, Jane Schuh and Laura Oster-Aaland and suggested they should meet with CULE. Even though their task force title includes learning, their specific charges for the curriculum are about teaching. Larry encouraged them to think more broadly about that.
     o Larry attended the IUPUI Assessment conference last week and one of the sessions he attended was from Northern Illinois University. They studied student retention using Survivor Analysis. They looked at the effect of high impact practices on students. Once students completed more than two, they were far more likely to “survive.” They controlled for everything: GPA, attempted credits per semester, completed credits per semester, etc. Things like service learning, learning communities that are time intensive and engage students, show that not only do students learn more, but they are more likely to graduate. He sent this information to Laura and Jane.
     o The 2013 IPEDS Data Feedback Report on OIRA webpage compares NDSU with our 15 peers. Figure 15 shows where the money goes. We are not as well funded per FTE as the median for our peers, but we spend $400 more on research per FTE than the median of our peers. Their median expense per FTE for teaching is about $3700 more than NDSU’s. Does that show we are “student focused”?
       o Lisa asked when the trend of allocation changed. Was it when we moved to research extensive? Larry said on the OIRA webpage there are cost analysis charts going back to 2004. (Note NDSU was $2000 behind on “instruction” then, but research expenses were not broken out.) Lisa is curious as to what was compromised to move the funds in another direction (to research).
   • “Bison Core” Nomenclature – Laura McDaniel wants to reserve “Bison” for athletics and would like us to change the name. She suggested NDSU Smart.
     o Amy asked if the committee agreed that Bison should only represent athletics. She thinks that we could make it academic as well.
     o Cole said that students on campus who aren’t involved in athletics call themselves Bison. Others on the committee agree with this. Alumni call themselves Bison as well.
Noah indicated that there have been several complaints from students when he has signed off emails with “Go Bison.” Students have complained that they don’t feel we support academics.

Andy asked if there is a discussion with Laura about starting a branding “icon” of our own for academics.

Amy, Kent, and Larry meet with Laura on Thursday to discuss some of these things.

3. Discuss meeting with Provost Ingram on October 21
   - The issue of the budget was a major focus.
   - We need to get people excited about this. We need to get the Deans and Chairs on board with this.
   - Lisa cautioned that timing for us will be crucial due to all of the other initiatives that are happening, so we really need to get the Deans and Chairs to agree this is important.
   - Larry and Amy had previously discussed trying to call a special meeting of the Chairs to discuss the model with them. It appears that December 3 will work, but Larry asked if this was too late. Committee thought this date would be ok.
   - The meeting with the Deans should happen quickly. Larry will contact the Provost about getting on their agenda.
     - We need to discuss if we will use the PowerPoint presentation. It would be great to meet with the Deans after we meet with the students, so we can tell that the students are excited about this.
     - The next Deans meeting is November 6, but Kent will be gone. After that it would be November 20.

4. Plan for meeting with students on November 4
   - Noah asked what the committee is looking for from the students.
   - We want to help students understand the model and have them help us think about how the message can be clear and exciting to the rest of campus. We also want to know if they notice anything that might be difficult for the students.
     - RaNelle said she would like to know what do they think about Gen Ed in general. Amy fears that if we have an open discussion about Gen Ed, we won’t get very far. Larry agrees, he thinks we need to get feedback on the model and to learn if they think they can get on board with this.
     - Noah asked if there was something from the present model that the students could compare to the new model to see what the difference is. Noah said he meets with students tonight.
     - Larry will send the old and new format to Noah so he can show the students at their meeting tonight. Will also put date of origin and a watermark DRAFT on them in case they float around.
     - Amy is going to revise her PowerPoint presentation. She and Noah will meet to see if there are any changes that would be helpful for students.

5. Next steps on the GE Roll-out Plan
   - Budget tasks progress – We meet November 4 with students and because November 11 is Veteran’s Day, we have no meeting. For the November 18 meeting, any sub group that met over the summer and hasn’t reported on their work should send their info to the committee so everyone can review and we can discuss at the meeting.
Susan said she opened a can of worms with her critical thinking in the capstone and we need to discuss that.

Larry said that as we get feedback from the campus we may make changes and even the Senate may alter the model.

RaNelle said that her issue with working on the policy is because the model is finalized yet, so she has done very little work on it.

- Larry explained that one example of the policy that might change is having blanket substitutes for upper division courses (e.g. “Why doesn’t any upper level Science course meet the outcome of Gen Ed?”) so we could cut down on the number of student petitions.
- RaNelle says the only cautionary tale is that we are not a decentralized university when it comes to clearing for graduation. She said her dept. needs to be in the know at all times. Blanket subs tend to sound easy, but things don’t always happen that way.

6. Questions, concerns, issues, or brainstorms about our journey

- Kent asked if we would be breaking down into sub committees to work on things.
  - Larry said we could meet on the 18th to discuss the feedback from the students and set tasks to complete and deadlines for the subcommittees.

*****Next meeting is Tuesday, November 4th at 8:30 am in Arikara*****