

Larry's notes from meeting with NDSU Chairs and Heads on NDSU Quest 12/03/14

22 Chairs (plus CULE members: Andrew Mara, Marion Harris, and RaNelle Ingalls)

I think the general tenor was positive or supportive about the new changes, but the concerns were about the details, the implementation, and the resources needed to support it.

Michael Strand

- How will this new emphasis on a more collaborative approach to thinking about our students fit with the reporting departments do (e.g. FTEs generated) which encourages silos?
- If this is phased in, that eases his mind about it.

Ben Duncan

- Will there be additional funds to support the increased credits in 189/FYE and the capstone?
- Could there be one-credit modules for Upper Division Writing the way there will be for Applied Communication?
- What oversight will there be of the critical thinking courses?

Polly Olson

- We will need professional development for faculty who will be teaching critical thinking.

Bill Martin & Scott Smith

- This model empowers departments by getting them to map the learning outcomes with their major.

Dinesh Katti

- The Engineering First Year Design Experience has many of the features CULE wants, but it was very intensive in terms of the resources (faculty and hardware). It required senior faculty with lots of experience.

Jeff Bumgarner

- He supports the required breadth of the current model.

Jim Deal

- Will the GE Committee “veto” department choices of the counterbalance to the major?

Mark Meister

- The new faculty we are hiring are focused on their research. They do not want to be bothered by advising or by teaching undergraduates.

Holly Bastow-Shoop

- How can we encourage students to get beyond pigeon-holing information as discrete, disconnected facts?

Common Themes

- We don't have enough resources to adequately staff our current courses.
- We are expected to “publish like the University of Minnesota, but teach like MSUM.”