

DATE: October 25, 2012

TO: Members of the NDSU Community

FROM: Core Undergraduate Learning Experiences (CULE)

RE: Six Core Questions to Frame Learning Outcomes for NDSU Undergraduates

CULE (initially called the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee) was authorized by the University Senate on December 14, 2009, to “design and implement a process to promote campus-wide discussion and examination of the knowledge and skills our graduates should have when they complete their baccalaureate degrees” and to “seek input and feedback from faculty, staff, students, employers, and alumni.” On August 17, 2010, Provost Craig Schnell charged CULE to design and implement a process that is: “transparent, inclusive, student-focused, faculty-driven, NDSU specific.”

From November 2010 to January 2012, CULE met with 460 people in 40 academic and non-academic units in listening sessions where people thought broadly about the purpose and goals of general education. In October 2011 CULE distributed a common electronic survey focusing on 29 student learning outcomes through the GDC for alumni, employers, faculty, staff and students. We received 1370 responses. A qualitative comparison by the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis (OIRA) of the results of six surveys administered over the past decade with the CLUE survey results revealed a high degree of consistency among all seven sources of information. Based on the OIRA’s work, and on what we learned from you in the survey responses and our face-to-face meetings, we are presenting our proposed learning outcomes. These outcomes are framed by Six Core Questions presented in no preferred order:

- How does the world work, and what is my place in it?
- Who am I, and how did I become that person?
- What values and practices are worth sustaining?
- How do we know what we know?
- What are the world's problems, and what consequences do they have for me?
- How might we address the world's problems?

Before we present this framework of Six Core Questions and their learning outcomes to the Faculty Senate, we are seeking your advice on how to improve them. In addition to open forums and other face-to-face meetings, you can make suggestions on how to improve this framework at <https://tt1.opinio.net/s?s=16869>.

After the Faculty Senate approves the learning outcomes, CULE will develop a range of models of GE programs to help students fulfill those outcomes and will present those models to the campus for feedback. Based on the feedback, CULE will craft a model for faculty review and the Faculty Senate’s approval.

CULE members: Marion Harris (AFSNR), Robert Harrold (Assessment, 2010-11), RaNelle Ingalls (Student Affairs), Rajesh Kavasseri (E&A), Andrew Mara (AHSS), Charlene Myhre (Libraries), Cynthia Naughton (PNAS), Lisa Nordick (DCE), Larry Peterson (Provost/Assessment), Seth Rasmussen (S&M), Susan Ray-Degges (HDE), Kent Sandstrom (Deans’ Liaison, replacing Kevin McCaul), Carolyn Schnell (University Studies), and Herbert Snyder (Business).