

UCC October 22, 2013
Minutes prepared by Marcia Keyser

Approval of Sept minutes

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-McAllister, environmental communication course, Engaged citizen. Approved based on numbers 2 & 4

-New charge, Todd. Concerned about time line and outside input. Met with Deb DeLaet twice. What is the impetus? In current model:

Concerns, lack of cohesiveness, meeting outcomes.

Irrelevancy of some when taken separately, critical thinking.

Efficiency and clarity of current model of reviewable. Is it fair to UCC? Some categories have lots of courses, some don't.

-Concern about buy-in from faculty and students. Some don't see the current curriculum as relevant. Some faculty sign off for them when they haven't been met. Speaks of a larger issue.

Great appreciation for the last reform; we don't throw away the good things.

By February: a vision, with implementation taking longer. Wants to avoid the length of last time. Get moving.

See four primary needs on charge

- getting more info from faculty and students

- Kevin to lead focus groups for this.

- List of attributes in current model and our strategic plan.

- review current model

- explore alternative models, such as Portland State U

What about assessment? How do we know it is working?

Two sets: self-reported attitudes, such as drake student survey. Perceptions of skill development.

Two: DCAC work. Pulls together more than one thread.

National learning. Mostly about critical thinking.

Concern of individual thoughts versus those that have studied hundreds of schools. Some could be knee-jerk reactions and others deeper thinking.

Time with committee is too short; subcommittees established.

Organizational change takes time, need psychologizing.

Focus since last reform has been assessment.

Some rubrics are being used. Not completed.

1 needs analysis, Kevin.

2 gathering and sharing scholarly research, ongoing basis. Summarizing.
3 where are we right now, drake curriculum. What resources.
4 alternative models

1-3,2-4 talk with each other.

Todd put people in: point person for each. Review. Point person produces report.

Note: needs analysis needs to come first. May be practical kinds of things.
Some of our work is the big think, rest is plugging holes.
Core conversation?

Tentative schedule won't work.

Liberal arts or general education. I tried to explain them, so did Todd. Drake appears to be a hybrid. Or "university studies" as its own department.

Kevin - interview, staggered process, some research already available. Last fall had a group visit and review. Suggested focus groups. Teagal group. Have students interested already.

Focus group can take some time. Continuing into the spring.

Portions of Teagle group report will be relevant, portions not. Kevin will make available.

Purposes discussion. Each group will get conversation started.
Each should meet before the next UCC. Report to Todd.

What are the purposes of general education?

Discussion. Three versions from Bourke article.

Meeting drake goals. Professional accomplishments. Business college made big change in past five years, career placement, interviewing, etc. Are we preparing them for our jobs, not the world's jobs?

- Rapid change in technology-

Two organizations have made lists of current attributes.

Biggest; communicate, team work, organize, another.

Todd: our current learning program does address some of these.

Tony Wagner, business hiring study.

CriticalThinking mentioned many times, but should it be a category? A class?

Would it help to review the three models?

Great books

Scholarly discourse

Effective citizen of the 21st century

Were we education by scholarly discourse, practicing # 3
Science, art, as disciplinary points of view.

Add to it experiential learning, FYS, JTerm approaches.

A tension growing, we add on to it rather than rethink it. Our job is to lay out the nature of the tension.

Concerned about watering down skills of scholarly discourse. Over concern with 21st century model.

Resistance comes from our own identities as scholars and our background.

Todd concludes, come to open forum (Oct 30). Continue conversation, look at our mission within context of these models. Subcommittees, get going.