

LACC Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 4, 2014
378 Rod Library

Attendees: Deedee Heistad, Jean Neibauer, April Chatham-Carpenter, Gary Gute, Blake Findley, Kim Cline-Brown, Susan Roberts-Dobie, Donna Vinton

Heistad opened the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

She gave the following announcements and updates:

- Heistad and Kristin Woods wrote a grant proposal to the Great Lake Community Investment College Success to fund first-year retention plans. Heistad said the proposal was not funded. She said that first-year retention is one of UNI's strengths.
- The First-Year Cornerstone faculty have created a leadership group to look at possible textbooks for next year. An assessment sub-committee has also been created and is looking at assessing the last two goals. Assessment thus far has been committed to ensuring First-Year Cornerstone was as good as the Oral Communication courses. Assessment will now move on to reviewing progress made in the civility and student engagement outcomes. Next year's theme is Social Media.
- Coordinating Committee Updates
 - Category 1c – Mathematics – this committee is calibrating a common rubric. Work samples in Math and Decision Making and Calculus 1 are being reviewed. They are reviewing how a rubric works for a diverse group. The goal is to have a pilot run in a larger group of classes next semester. Heistad went to a Math department meeting to talk about Liberal Arts Core assessment and was well-received. She talked about ways of incorporating LAC assessment into departmental assessment. Heistad was encouraged by the response.
 - Category 1d – Personal Wellness – Heistad held an assessment retreat with the faculty. Three of the five instructors teaching Dimensions of Personal Wellness the first 8 weeks collected work samples. The group was assessing the goal related to critical thinking and looking at reliable sources of information on wellness. Heistad said it went well. She said she will meet again with the sub-committee and take the assessment discussion to the full committee and then to the full school of HPELS. Another interesting fact is that the Dimensions faculty conducted a survey. The first round of responses (pre-course) was very high. The second round (post-course) was over 50% of the students. The results were good.
 - Category 4c – The coordinating committee is reviewing the challenge of how it will look collecting data from both Human Origins and Physics.
 - Category 5c – Heistad is working with Richard Featherstone to set up an assessment retreat to work with faculty.
- Heistad reported that thanks to Jean Neibauer and Lori VanHooreweghe the LAC Advising Handbook looks great. The next step is to vet the handbook with the stakeholders in the departments via the department heads. Heistad is not asking for everyone to add their caveats to the handbook. She wants it ready by May 1, 2014 for New Student Orientation. Neibauer commented that the handbook was designed for both faculty and students.

Heistad asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Cline-Brown so moved and Roberts-Dobie seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Heistad reviewed the brainstorming list from the last meeting. She wants everyone to make any additions and then pick a top two for the coming academic year.

Heistad said that she is going to schedule a consultation with the university writing committee for the next meeting. Discussion followed on the important of writing intensive courses at UNI, what they might look like, how to implement and what sister institutions are doing. Neibauer said that there are ancillary services that will need additional funding if intensive writing courses become a reality at UNI. She said that the UNI's writing center tutors go through a national certification and she sees the possibility of an increase demand for their services.

Chatham-Carpenter, Cline-Brown, Klassen, and Gute have agreed to serve on the LACC Excellence in Teaching Award Committee. The committee will meet Friday, April 11, 2014 at 8:15 a.m. in LIB 378.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Handout from the meeting follows.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Jordan

LACC projects brainstorming list

From March 7th

1. Take advantage of CETL for faculty development for LAC teachers. Find out what the needs of LAC faculty are in that area (faculty survey?)
2. Creating recommendations for when students should take their LAC courses.
3. Create LAC vision that the LACC can promote.
4. Faculty Senate chair, Jerry Smith gave a charge to the university writing committee to come up with a way of having additional writing requirements that build on the LAC. LACC should ask to be a part of this conversation.
5. Consultation with Univ Writing Committee
6. More education for students on the importance of the LAC. (talk to the students and the offices of NISG)
7. The LACC could examine the skills that go across the category – cohesiveness – for students to see that these skills transfer out into their lives – work toward some goals – university goals for an undergraduate degree.
8. Break-out sessions at the fall faculty workshop that address the needs of the LAC, i.e. teaching the humanities, teaching first-year students. By doing these during the fall faculty workshop it would make it easier to get to the workshops.
9. Every 5-years a 2-day workshop offered to faculty.
10. The LACC could sponsor a drive-in workshop and invite our sister institutions and the community colleges.
11. Increase support for adjunct instructors.
12. Create mission statement for the LACC.
13. Improve communication with the faculty about all things LAC
14. Promote the vision of the Liberal Arts Core.