

Engaged Learning and Course Redesign Subgroup, EEE Workgroup
January 11, 2011
9:00-noon
Regionalist Room, Kansas Union

Present: John Augusto, Mary Banwart, Danielle Barker, Devon Cantwell, Sarah Crawford-Parker, Andrea Greenhoot, Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco, Rick Hale, Chris Haufler, Joe Heppert, Sara Rosen, Mike Vitevitch, Andi Witzak (visiting presenter)

Not Present: Jennifer Church-Duran and Fred Rodriguez

Agenda:

1. EEE/Strategic Planning updates, introduction of Action Item Template-Cudd, Haufler, Crawford-Parker
2. Reports from research dyads (9:10-11:00, 20 minutes per dyad, with break)
 - a. Undergraduate Research: John Augusto and Mike Vitevitch
 - b. Common Intellectual Experiences (e.g., learning communities, linked courses, other ways to create student cohorts): Mary Banwart and Rick Hale
 - c. First Year Experiences, including pre-first year Experiences: Andrea Greenhoot and Danielle Barker
 - d. Course and Curricular Redesign Initiatives: Jennifer Church-Duran and Fred Rodriguez
 - e. Experiential learning/Engaged learning related to Global Awareness: Devon Cantwell and Susan Gronbeck-Tedesco
3. Engaged learning at KU: existing strengths and opportunities for growth- Andi Witzak
4. Initial priority setting
5. Interconnections and coherence
6. Straw vote on priorities

Discussion Questions:

- What engaged learning activities should we identify as priority items? Practices evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Empirical evidence that the practice improves retention and time to graduation rates, intellectual engagement, and learner outcomes
 - Sustainability
 - Keys to success
 - Potential barriers
 - Building on KU strengths

Discussion Outcomes:

- Subgroup participants reported on the following activities at AAU and other institutions:
 - Undergraduate Research—develops teamwork and writing skills and encourages independent thinking. Research experiences need to be integrated into courses to catch more students. The role of the faculty member in mentoring undergraduate research needs to be better defined, including compensation and recognition. Consider embedding undergraduate research in general education requirements. Build collaborations with other units that will enhance undergraduate research.
 - Common Intellectual Experiences—Studies demonstrate that learning communities enhance retention and intellectual engagement—data shows increased critical thinking and intellectual development. Learning community programs are widespread at AAU institutions. Keys to success include strong institutional commitment and a P&T structure that values participation in LCs. LC programs encourage collaboration with other units and build on KU strengths with Service Learning, Study Abroad, and capstone experiences.
 - First-Year Experiences—Almost all AAU institutions have some form of a first-year seminar, 1 or 3-credit hour. Most taught by faculty members and are related to their own areas of expertise. Focus on intellectual engagement. Some institutions link a freshman seminar to another course. Common course models link 2-3 courses that students take as a cohort. Some universities have summer transition programs where freshmen enroll in courses prior to the fall semester. These programs create a supportive intellectual culture for students in the first year. Sustainability—free up faculty resources through new general education system and possible redesign of mid-level courses with hybrid offerings.
 - Experiential Learning—Consider a Center for Experiential Learning that would integrate Service Learning, Undergraduate Research (REP), and GAP certificates with internship and other opportunities. Centralize resources while enhancing visibility. Also consider proposal to integrate Study Abroad into the major.
 - Other items—consider requiring students to produce a capstone experiential learning project prior to graduation. Could take many forms.

Next Steps:

- At next meeting report out on course redesign options and Common Book programs.
- Conduct preliminary poll by email to establish long priority list.
- Next meeting on **Friday, January 28th**, 1-3 p.m., Centennial Room, Kansas Union.

