

Joint Provost / Senate Council General Education and Reform Assessment
Planning and Coordinating Committee
(GERA)

Notes, November 14, 2005

Attendees Present: Ruth Beattie, Larry Grabau, Richard Greissman, Jane Jensen, Phil Kraemer, Deb Moore, Tad Pedigo, Connie Ray, Rebecca Scott, Gerald Smith, Ernie Yanarella

1. Ernie reported on his and Phil's meeting with President Todd. Todd suggested he be a member of a panel discussion/forum on "The World is Flat" and also suggested names for possible participants. Phil suggested a corporate summit, sponsored in conjunction with Sue Strup and the Career Center. The goal would be to host corporate folks and hear their ideas about what they want from graduating students. Ernie suggested inviting Nancy Cantor (Chancellor, Syracuse University) for a full day of yet-to-be-decided events, perhaps with the topic of "Preserving a Liberal Arts Core in a Rank-One Public Research University."
2. Jane discussed the initial details regarding a scholarly dinner discussion to take place in January. The intent would be to enable a collegial faculty conversation regarding the five principles. There was discussion on how the participants might be chosen and the purpose of the dinner, e.g. a symbolic meeting or one leading to substantial recommendations. Preparatory readings were suggested to minimize the possibility of various attendees taking back varying messages. It was suggested that this be a precursor to the college forums/citizen juries. Larry offered information regarding facilitators.
3. The timeline offered much information for discussion. There was some concern that it might be too aggressive. Deb noted that it was preferable to have a tight schedule as opposed to a looser schedule that might allow the process to drag on. The question of requesting syllabi was also discussed. It was suggested that there could be five committees for each of the five principles to help identify the necessary curriculum to support each principle.
4. Deb presented the survey results she and Bill worked on. She requested input on additional information she should provide, before beginning the narrative. She noted there was a consistent pattern of responses, regardless of the individual characteristics (length of service, type of course taught, position or role in department, etc.) of responders. The committee agreed that this indicated there was definite room for improvement in USP.

Discussion topics for November 21, 2005: (1) timeline; (2) college forums/citizen juries; (3) January dinner; and (4) GERA website.