REAL Council

Minutes

July 7, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Student Center 130

Attendees: Denise Martinez, Tara Whitson, Johnny Robinson, Benni Konvicka, Russell Pfau, Marilyn Robitaille, Art Low, Melissa Becker, Darla Doty

By Phone: Kim Rynearson

Handouts:
- Agenda
- SACS Recommendation summary

Discussion:
1. Previous items:
   - Chalk and Wire:
     - When students are submitting artifacts, we can add demographic-type questions to the exercise, such as “How many ALEs have you completed including this one” etc. Denise and the Office Directors will work on these over the summer. Need to schedule meeting with Doug and Tara.
     - Doug will be setting up accounts for REAL Council members and Tara will let us know when that is available.
     - Have a Blackboard course, through which C&W will be accessed.
   - ALE requirements: Marilyn will define the specific details (e.g. minimum of 3 weeks) for study abroad and provide them to the REAL council (to clarify ALE qualifications vs. other efforts around campus). She is back from travel and has some cool stuff to share.
     - Marilyn provided SLOs for the “globally competent learner”; she was out of town for the “global” discussion and these definitions provide a framework such that “global” can apply to all ALE areas.
     - Counter example: Wild hog nose bacteria – questions: what makes it an ALE and not just the same undergrad research? Answer: highlight how the supervisor is highlighting, guiding, providing connections;
       - How does it address SLO #3: awareness of a community of scholars, why has it been researched, what is the environmental impact, can it be detrimental in certain communities – all of these go beyond what the original or traditional research approach had taken, thus making it an ALE.
       - The faculty/supervisor must help the student discover “good answers” to the prompts; guide them with questions – include this in our training session
     - Study away – Marilyn proposed using “Study U.S.” – clarifies distinction between domestic and abroad; no opposition
- Marilyn presented information from the Institute of International Education.
- Discussed portfolio requirements – it is up to the office whether or not to specify requirements for the additional artifact; expecting a particular set of deliverables from the experience is perfectly fine; Darla and Johnny have some specific pre- and post-experience requirements.
  - Can at least provide them as a guide or say “acceptable artifacts include but are not limited to …”
  - Student should be able to answer questions related to their artifacts; for example if they upload a photostory or set of pictures, the student should be able to discuss the relevance of the photo.
- Marilyn will revise the documents and send them out to the committee.
- Need our operational definition of applied learning – see Apr. 19 minutes for links;
  - Subcommittee: Russell (lead), Melissa, Benni, Mark, Gilbert
  - Task: finalize a brief definition of applied learning as appropriate to our QEP; due asap (mid July at latest);
  - This is part of our SACS response.
  - The committee discussed the definition presented by the subcommittee.
  - Considered putting the word “transformative” in, but that’s hard to measure; keep in mind though that this is not an SLO and thus doesn’t have to be measured; however it is still too difficult to quantify.
  - The committee finalized the following definition:
    - Applied Learning Experiences engage students in real-world situations requiring them to put into action the knowledge and skills they develop through academic coursework. These experiences help students connect academic learning to the real world, enabling them to obtain and enhance the knowledge and skills required for employment, further education, and active participation in local communities.
  - Denise will update the website.
- Example applications – instead of putting these up, pose questions to lead the applicants to develop the answers and information we are seeking.
  - Such as: how will you mentor the students, are there components that will broaden their perspectives including a diverse community of scholars, how will you spend time helping the students make the connections, etc.
  - Denise will update the website.
- Glossary of terms: applied learning, each ALE area (criteria) – Denise is working on it.
- Examples of valid experiences – consider providing real or hypothetical experiences; this can help people develop their own experiences.
  - We will keep a running list of ALEs and brief descriptions of each.
  - We are also developing a list of potential community needs to serve as seeds for ALEs:
    - Rainbow Wildlife Rehab
    - Stephenville Empire Tribune
- Apps need to address REAL SLOs and office SLOS, so office SLOs need to be on the website – Denise and ALE offices.
  - For the QEP, we are measuring the REAL SLOs only; however the individual offices also have SLOs since they are assisting in student learning.
• It is up to the office to decide what (if any – but all offices have SLOs currently) data to collect
• Data can be gathered for the office SLOs from the graded C&W rubrics; additional rubrics, surveys, etc. may be required by the offices (example: supervisor surveys for internships); do not get overly specific or prescriptive, such as “100 pictures”; keep it broader and learning oriented and it is easier to measure with simple instruments.
• This data is supplemental to the REAL project, but is useful in their own Weave materials (institutional effectiveness)
  • a guide is needed for what an acceptable number of hours is for the experience;
  • see ALE criteria on website
  • Study abroad/U.S. – “spans 3 weeks” – this means it includes at least part of 3 (consecutive?) weeks in the country/location; this may be a minimum of 9 days;
  • Need examples of how each ALE area may address these; this will lead to the behaviors we are identifying in our SACS response

2. Review SACS Recommendations
   • We will work by email on “behaviors” and “indicators” for our SLOs

3. Timeline
   • July draft preliminary response – will work on this by email
   • REAL apps for 10-11 – have about a dozen in or possibly coming in
   • August workshop and finalize response – need to start planning this at next meeting!

4. Adjourn – 11 a.m.