REAL Council

Minutes

April 18, 2012, 3:30 p.m., Math 125

Attendees: Denise Martinez, Reed Baize, Melissa Sellars, Arthur Low, Marilyn Robitaille, Tara Whitson, Darla Doty, Benni Konvicka, Melissa Becker, Johnny Robinson, Chelsea Ketchum

By Phone: no phone available

Handouts:
- Agenda

Discussion:
1. Previous items:
   - All REAL Council members, please take every opportunity to publicize, facilitate, and recruit.
     - logos on emails, particularly events, discussion at faculty/staff meetings, etc.

2. Updates
   - Website – Continues to be updated as needed; check it periodically
     - REAL Council members updated; non-participants removed
     - make less wordy
       - Marilyn – will send suggestions on the renewal info page
       - Benni – will send suggestions on the main page
       - All – send suggestions on any of the pages; we will be doing major website cleanup during May.

3. Current items
   - Discuss increased pressure for ALEs and associated complications
     - Increase our push to get students involved, eager, active, and wanting to do this, and asking for experiences.
     - Students are talking about it more; need to increase this.
   - Transition Week –
     - Students are not yet equipped to do a full blown ALE and the logistics of getting that many students in Chalk and Wire and someone(s) evaluating their reflections may not be feasible.
     - Provide a pre-ALE activity/mini-ALE/exploratory ALE
     - Have session(s) conducted by the ALE area offices
     - Johnny discussed the Strengthquest activity the students will be doing; dovetail the ALE exploration with those results?
     - Johnny also suggested the opportunity to talk about ALEs during the value exploration activities at Duck Camp; will talk to Mike and see what we can do?
• Need to talk to Lathes about Transition Week; Arthur will share the participation template he has requested; Denise will notify the committee when a meeting is set; Darla, Arthur, Denise, and Reed, at a minimum, will meet with Lathes.

• REAL is a AY13 priority for Student Life
• Gather testimonials from students who have been impacted and valued their experience – Denise – will/has contacted ALE instructors (not many responses) and will continue, Russel, Marilyn, Johnny, Alana – seek these from interactions with people doing ALES in your areas.
• The number of reflections to grade can be a deterrent, particularly when the experience is not part of a class

• Chalk and Wire (REAL council decided last time to allow some flexibility here)
  • What options are available?
    • several in Ag use Weebly. Seems to be simply a web page tool (this is ok for an eportfolio). Thus it doesn’t “go away” like C&W does.
  • What are your challenges with C&W?
    • it’s something new to learn.
    • it goes away when the student graduates
      • Tara – will check to see if students get one year free, then it’s $15/yr after that
      • How long would the student really want/need it? They should have a job within a year of graduating. They can also export to a webpage. We don’t have data on this yet.

• ePortfolios in general – barrier, particularly in certain disciplines; pros/cons of flexibility; incentive? value?
  • we want to keep this requirement.
  • one argument from faculty: what’s the point if the student only does one ALE and it’s in their senior year (e.g. capstone)? hopefully as student exposure to ALEs increases, they will have more eportfolio content; programs can use it to evaluate growth;
  • requirements for people using alternate tool – must send spreadsheet with REAL rubric results; must provide an electronic copy of one electronic artifact.
  • Students don’t understand the value of an eportfolio, so view it as just an exercise
  • Alana/Melissa – career services is developing an eportfolio presentation to address value;
  • In Chalk and Wire, make it clear that students can develop a “showcase” portfolio, which can include only the materials they want to use to market themselves, but other material in the eportfolio is valuable also to demonstrate growth.

• “we already do real stuff” – want to acknowledge this, but encourage “the tweak”
  • In many cases this is true, EXCEPT the experience does not ask the student to look beyond the discipline or more globally; however the solution is often a simple tweak on what is already being done, such as modifying existing prompts, merging writing assignments, etc.
    • All – continue to highlight this and make yourself available to help people “convert” a real activity to a REAL activity.
    • Not new, but different, and sometimes only slightly different
• The application is too long/hard – shorten (AGAIN)? online version is the same; perceived easier? Just tell them the (suggested) strategy?
  • REAL Council approved the online app
  • Denise/Chelsea – fix the underlined text so as to not be confused with a link
  • Length is fine.
  • Make a pdf and qualtrics app available
  • REAL Council approved new application process – (anthology model)
    • No longer issue a call for proposals for a single deadline.
    • Accept applications on a continuous basis
    • Remind faculty periodically they can submit these
    • Applications will be evaluated according to some schedule by the committee (to be determined – probably once/semester?)
    • First come, first served
    • Award notifications approximately early Feb, June, and Oct. These are also the deadline if the experience is being done that same semester.
  • Offer ALE app completion parties…
    • Snap app, lock-in, work session (not an inviting term), retreat (but not retreating)
    • 2-5 pm with happy hour upon completion…can we have ales/wine after? (Marilyn R will help find the answer to this one)
    • Deploy this fall, prior to first review deadline.
  • Renewal process – clarify on website;
    • these can be submitted any time (same feb/june/oct if offered in same semester);
    • make sure the instructor understands they are not renewing the funding part.
    • Good for one year

4. Adjourn – 5 pm.