Minutes from the meeting of the Academic Program strategic plan working group  
December 9, 2010. President’s Conference Room, Olmsted Hall

In attendance:

Susan Calovini, Jennie Ebeling, Rob Griffith, Beth Hennon (notetaker), Susan Kupisch, Kristy Miller, Barbara Price (Trustee), Don Rodd, Pete Rosen, Brian Swenty, Donna Teague, Don Voss

To begin the meeting, the committee, heard a brief summary of the most recent steering committee meeting.

Three working groups presented tentative recommendations.

By January 7th, the working group recommendations are due to the steering committee. A recommendation form developed by Amy Brandebury was disseminated. Recommendations are to include the goal(s), rationale, suggested actions/tactics, and accountability.

Next, the committee reviewed feedback received from the general campus community, which included

- Challenge the requirements
  - To keep in mind that we might need a completely new beginning
  - To ensure that international perspectives and social responsibility are included across the entire core

The majority of the meeting was spent focusing on the Foundational Programs goal. There were three portions within this goal – General Education and FYS, Honor’s program, and Major Discovery program. Discussion included the degree of specificity expected from the working group regarding general education. It was determined that the goal would provide a “road-map” for the revision of the general education core.

- We must focus on what makes UE unique/what UE does well.
  - International aspects
  - Learning communities
  - Create a distinctive/signature program through active learning and a focus

- After discussion, it was decided that General Education and FYS should be separated into two distinct goals within the Foundation Areas.

General Education

- Insure an International component/focus within the program
- Insure a distinctive/signature general education program
  - This program should include the essential goals specified in the LEAP report
  - It should address content, skill-building, engagement with the world, International dimensions, and Integration of information across domains
  - It should include active learning opportunities that focus on student learning and student outcomes.

First year seminar
- Separate back out from General Education
- Use the FYS sequence as a preparation for the overall general education curriculum.
- Ideally, the FYS sequence should be
  o Distinctive
  o Academically rigorous
  o Mission centered (i.e., oriented within the overall UE mission)
  o Interdisciplinary minded
  o Intellectually engaging
- The FYS sequence should encourage the development of critical thinking skills.
- It should be taught by well-qualified faculty from across campus
- The FYS sequence must focus on both content and skills.

Other topics discussed included

- Should we address writing across the curriculum within Foundational Areas?
- How to design the FYS so that it is clear that it is distinctive
- How to develop a general education and FYS system that works as a marketing tool and that it would encourage students to come to UE

The committee will discuss the goals and refine the final recommendations via e-mail and sharepoint. The recommendations will be presented to the Steering Committee on December 14, 2010.