Minutes

Committee Members:

DeHaan, Kathleen - Communication
Hansen, David - Management and Marketing
Mignone, Bob - Mathematics
Radakovic, Nenad - Teacher Education
Rogers, Amy - Chemistry and Biochemistry
Spade, Thomas – Accounting and Legal Studies
Pace, Gracie- Student representative

And Guests: Anthony Greene, Jim Allison, and Robert Pitts.

I. New Business
   A. Discussion: Rebranding of Gen Ed
      Anthony Green (guest) talked about rebranding of gen ed stemming from Pillar Two Committee with the focus on experiential learning. The question is: what would be a way to repackage the requirements (rebrand) and what does it look like? Should we follow models from Clemson and William and Mary, etc. Is this something we should think about? Maybe having focus groups with students about gen ed to see to what extent the format of gen eds is the factor in deciding to come C of C.

      Question from the Chair: Is rebranding enough to make the gen ed program appealing?

      David Hansen as a business professor states that gen ed courses is the basis for problem solving, creativity, and systems thinking. Novelty comes from the breadth of knowledge.

      Dan Greenberg: How do we rebrand/communicate gen ed/liberal arts so that we convey the message of their importance better to students?

      Another question: How does experiential learning fit into the gen eds? How would you incorporate it into the meaningful way?
      This depends on the definition of experiential learning.
      Anthony Greene: experiential learning assignments are in many FYE classes and other classes. What is experiential learning? According to Jim Allison, there is a wide definition of experiential learning and over 90% of C of C students have had some form of experiential learning. The definition is based on NSSE 6 High Impact Practices. Also, experiential learning is a continuum.
      Gracie Pace suggested that experiential learning should be implemented within different
departments (on the program level rather than in gen eds)

Another question is that the gen ed core consists of different areas (e.g. math and natural sciences). Is there an overarching theme?

David Hansen mentioned that broad themes could work well in integrating different gen ed courses. Also, there is overlap with REI and strategic planning. Important to look at the big picture to go beyond the box checking exercise.

Gracie Page in the rebranding efforts make sure that students know how critical general education is.

Meeting ended at 10:21