

**Report and Recommendations of the NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group
July 1, 2009**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the NEW ERA Board's decision to continue their support of the Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG), the FDG began its fourth year by dividing up into five working groups (Communications, Conference, New/International Initiatives, Relationship-Building/Transferability, and Sustainability) and continuing to focus on three primary goals: identifying and clarifying inter-institutional collaboration benefits and issues between the UW and WTC systems; exploring teaching and curriculum in the UW and WTC systems, particularly in relation to credit transfer potential; and recommending specific strategies, activities and events to build stronger relationships among the faculty of NEW ERA institutions. The successful FDG-sponsored conference at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay in April 2009 contributed significantly to the group's ability to meet these goals.

Over the 2008-09 year, the FDG also initiated a Renewable Energy Education group and explored sustainability-related curriculum development opportunities with NEW ERA high schools, the technical colleges and universities (an initiative led by John Katers at UW-Green Bay and Amy Kox at NWTC). We increased the FDG representation from the UW Colleges this year, and for the first time since its inception, the FDG had a representative from UW-Extension.

For the coming year, the 2008-09 FDG recommends that the Faculty Dialogue Group be continued and that the group review the original goals in the 2005-06 report, continue FDG representation at the NEW ERA board meetings, continue-the work of the FDG working groups, continue-publicity about the work of NEW ERA and the FDG, present a fourth annual collaborative conference in 2010, increase-follow-up with conference participants (possibly through e-mail lists set up before the conference begins), and continue support for collaborative programs and perhaps even collaborative online courses.

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Following the NEW ERA Board's decision to continue its support of the Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG), the FDG began its fourth year of work by adjusting the New Initiatives working group's mandate to reflect the new members' interest in international issues and creating an additional working group devoted exclusively to Sustainability. After making these changes, the FDG consisted of five working groups: Communications (to work on disseminating information about NEW ERA and the FDG), Conference (to work on organizing and setting up the spring conference), International Initiatives (to investigate ways to pursue international curricula and networks), Relationships (to maintain connections between faculty once they are created), and Sustainability (to continue work on collaborative sustainability programs, to collect and to share ways to infuse sustainability issues across the curricula, and to identify ways that institutions can share sustainability-related resources). Each subsequent meeting allowed agenda time for full group discussion, Working Group time for their projects, and reports from the Working Groups. So, while the size of the overall FDG increased, the members divided into groups of appropriate size, enabling us to use time efficiently and resulted in the FDG accomplishing much more than if it worked as one whole group toward a few tasks.

In this document you will find a summary of the groups' activities and accomplishments for the 2008-09 year and a list of recommendations by this year's FDG for future consideration by next year's group. Appendices A, B, C, and D provide a budget information, the membership plan for 2009-10, the schedule/evaluation summary for the 2009 FDG-sponsored conference, and the guiding principles of the FDG.

1. ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM THE 2007-08 FACULTY DIALOGUE GROUP

The FDG has continued to work on various aspects to achieve its goals initiated by the NEW ERA Board back in 2005:

- identify and clarify inter-institutional collaboration benefits and issues between the UW and WTC systems
- explore teaching and curriculum in the UW and WTC systems, particularly in relation to credit transfer potential
- recommend specific strategies, activities and events to build stronger relationships among the faculty of NEW ERA institutions

To achieve these goals, the FDG conducted activities as a whole group and in sub-groups dedicated to specific tasks. The following list of accomplishments is split into 3 categories; accomplishments by the Working Groups, items from the 2007-08 FDG Report, and any additional accomplishments.

1.1. Working Groups

The FDG decided at its first meeting to create 5 Working Groups: Communications, Conference, International Initiatives, Relationship-Building/Transferability, and Sustainability. The following is a summary of their activities from the year.

1.1.1. Communications

This year, the Communications Working Group created a survey for high-school guidance counselors in Northeast Wisconsin and compiled a list of e-mail addresses for potential survey participants. The survey will determine the level of familiarity among area guidance counselors with the different roles, demographic make-ups, resources, and benefits of the various NEW ERA institutions. The group sent out the surveys at the end of May, and they will forward the results to the Relationship-Building/Transferability Working Group, which will identify any misconceptions, blind spots, or prejudices and determine the best way to reach out to and to educate the counselors. The group could then use the PowerPoint presentations created by the 2007-08 Communications Working Group as part of an informational session for guidance counselors, as well as interested students and teachers.

The working group urges next year's members to measure the effect of such informational sessions on individual campuses. It also recommends that next year's group compile a directory of past and present members of the FDG.

1.1.2. Conference

This year, the Conference Working Group organized the third region-wide conference to foster collaboration and to inform participants about the work of the NEW ERA and the FDG. The conference was held on April 17 at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay. The conference's theme was "Liberal Education," and the featured speaker was nationally-known Dr. Susan Albertine, American Association of Colleges and Universities, Washington D.C. She heads up the AACU's initiative "Liberal Education and America's Promise" (LEAP). About 100 people attended the conference—a 33% increase from last year's attendance. Included in this year's program were presentations, and specific breakout sessions for areas of interests. See Appendix C for the complete conference agenda.

According to the conference evaluations (44 responded last year with 42 responding this year), this year's event was well-organized, well-received, and enjoyable.

Only two of last year's questions appeared again on this year's evaluation, and the score's remained consistently high: the first questions addressed how well the format for the day worked to accomplish the conference objectives (with a score of 4.02 on a 5 point scale, as opposed to last year's 4.1), and the second addressed how much the participants learned about other NEW ERA institutions (scoring a 4.0, as opposed to last year's 4.1). This year's comments, like the ones we received last year, were overwhelmingly positive about the experience, and many commented on the importance of such collaborative events:

- *"This is a great group. Improving and facilitating relationships among faculty at our institutions is very important."*
- *"Keep joint conferences coming!"*
- *"Good discussions. When we talk/listen, we learn."*

Participants also recommended that the FDG look into collaborative online courses, inter-institutional e-mail lists, collaborative ways of addressing sustainability on campus and in the larger Northeast Wisconsin community, and inter-institutional experiential or service learning.

The entire evaluation summary can be found in Appendix D. Overall we believe the conference was another positive step toward bringing faculty together to meet and to share information with each other as part of our goal to foster collaborative relations. We hope we can continue these efforts by holding another conference next year.

The working group recommends that the FDG begin planning the 2011 conference at the October 2010 meeting. Possible topics for the conference include changing student demographics, innovative uses of technology inside and outside of the classroom, and possibilities for bridging institutional, cultural, and national divisions in academia.

1.1.3. **International Studies**

The major topic of discussion for this group was a proposed international trip for faculty members of NEW ERA institutions during summer 2010. The purpose of this trip would be 1) to explore future international education opportunities such as academic exchange programs for students and faculty of NEW ERA institutions, 2) to learn about innovative curricula and academic collaborations like apprenticeships, and 3) to improve inter-institutional relationships within NEW ERA by providing a shared experience for faculty. The group collected an email list of interested faculty at the April NEW ERA conference. Areas of interest by potential participants included auto technology, business and marketing, global health and nursing, among other topics.

The proposed 2010 trip would be co-sponsored by the Hessen Exchange, a collaborative program between the UW System and the state of Hessen in Germany. An initial inquiry to the Hessen Exchange by Brent Blahnik, Director of the Office of International Education at UW-Green Bay, has led to an enthusiastic response. Brent subsequently has been working with the Hessen Exchange to develop a more detailed proposal for the 2010 trip.

The group makes the following recommendations:

- The trip should be open to faculty of all NEW ERA institutions, with preference to members of the Faculty Dialogue Group.
- The optimal time for the trip would be during mid-June (June 10-24) in order to coincide with the German academic year.
- The trip should last 10-14 days and should include orientation to geographic, historic, and cultural aspects of the country.
- Heike Alberts and Sarah Meredith Livingston are willing to lead the trip.
- Giles Bousquet, UW System Coordinator of International Education, should be contacted about opportunities for grants or other types of financial support.
- Organizers of the trip should explore the possibility of faculty credits (e.g., graduate credits in education) for trip participants.

The International Initiatives Working Group suggests that planning for this trip should be a major task for next year's FDG/IWG agenda. In addition, the group recommended discussion about the general applications of technology to academic globalization.

1.1.4. Relationship-Building/Transferability

Much of this group's work was devoted to laying the groundwork for next year. Specifically, it identified some of the most pressing issues facing NEW ERA institutions: barriers to and opportunities for collaborative teaching, student advising, ways to promote teaching excellence, and the need for better communication and cooperation between high schools and colleges/universities. The group also explored the possibility of an inter-institutional NEW ERA degree, and it hopes that next year's group will continue this line of inquiry.

1.1.5. Sustainability

The Sustainability Working Group began its first year by starting a directory of NEW ERA faculty working in sustainability-related fields and sustainability-related resources at the various NEW ERA campuses. The group also organized and led two break-out sessions at the annual FDG conference. The sessions, which focused on "Sustainability Across the Curriculum, was designed after the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Across the Curriculum Leadership workshops—workshops for faculty leaders of all disciplines who wish to develop curriculum change programs around sustainability on their campuses.

In addition to the efforts of John Katers (UW-GB) and Amy Kox (NWTC) to develop sustainability-related curricula and to submit a pre-proposal to NSF to develop a NEW ERA high school course on "Energy and Science" (see section 1.2.7 of this report), a newly-created Renewable Energy Education group posted information on sustainability-related collaborative opportunities in Northeast Wisconsin on the Focus on Energy website (<http://www.focusonenergy.com/Renewable/training.aspx>).

1.2. Accomplishments

Many of the accomplishments from this past year come directly from the recommendations in the 2007-08 report. The following is a list of those recommendations and a brief explanation of what was accomplished and/or how it was addressed:

- 1.2.1. **Review 2005-06 Report:** At the first meeting of the year in October 2009, the FDG reviewed the 2005-06 report and discussed potential areas of focus in its work.
- 1.2.2. **Include FDG link on NEW ERA web site:** With the help of Juli McGuire (UW-Fox Valley), visitors can access information about the FDG, meeting minutes, and a roster from the NEW ERA web site.
- 1.2.3. **Send FDG Representative to the NEW ERA Board Meetings:** In response to the NEW ERA Board's suggestion, FDG decided that the Vice Chair would serve as the FDG representative on the NEW ERA Board. Stephanie Erdmann, College of Menominee Nation, attended the meetings and gave monthly reports to the FDG this year.
- 1.2.4. **Invite a Representative from UW-Extension to the FDG:** Jay Moynihan, Community Development Educator at Shawano County UW Extension, joined Faculty Dialogue Group this year.

- 1.2.5. **Plan the third annual collaborative conference (Conference Group):** This conference has become one of the main activities of the FDG, and this year's group was pleased with the success of the 2009 conference at Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay.
- 1.2.6. **Review conference comments & evaluation (Conference Group):** This year's working group reviewed and considered comments from the previous two years, and perhaps the comments from this year would also help the planning group determine next year's program.
- 1.2.7. **Continue Sustainability/Environmental Science Program (New Initiatives Group):** This year, John Katers (UW-Green Bay) worked with Amy Kox (NWTC) to develop sustainability-related curricula with NEW ERA high schools, technical colleges and universities, and they submitted a pre-proposal to NSF to develop a high school course on "Energy and Society" that could be offered for college credit. Such a course would generate student interest in these topics and transition easily to a technical college or university. Participants in this initiative also formed a Renewable Energy Education group and posted information on these types of collaborative opportunities on the Focus on Energy website (<http://www.focusonenergy.com/Renewable/training.aspx>).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2009-2010 FACULTY DIALOGUE GROUP

Although the 2008-09 FDG accomplished many items relating to our goals, there are still many areas that require work and consideration. The following are recommendations for the coming year (in no particular order of importance):

- 2.1. **Review 2005-06 Report:** Future groups should continue to review the initial FDG Report from 2005-06 for potential areas of focus in its work. The document contains FDG goals and was the starting point for much of the work over the past three years.
- 2.2. **Consider organizing a NEW ERA faculty speaker's bureau.** In compiling a list of potential speakers, next year's group should consider veterans of the Faculty Dialogue Group, as well as current members and other interested faculty.
- 2.3. **Explore the possibility of collaborative online courses.** As a first step towards creating a NEW ERA degree of some kind, the group might be able to encourage a collaborative online course.
- 2.4. **Set up e-mail lists to which conference participants may subscribe.** After each conference, the FDG has struggled to keep people in touch with each other. If the group could set up appropriate lists before the conference, the participants could begin to communicate while the momentum is still strong.
- 2.5. **Continue Working Group's Projects:** Each of the Working Groups had various projects they started and perhaps next year's group would like to consider continuing, or expanding this work.
 - 2.5.1. **Review and revise presentation modules (Communication Group):** As mentioned previously, the current set of presentation modules are very rudimentary and need some refinement. These need to be worked on so they are more conducive for use by the group. There also might need to be additional topics created and potentially these could be posted on FDG link on the NEW ERA web site.
 - 2.5.2. **Appoint a conference chairperson (Conference Group):** This chairperson could serve as a primary contact and could communicate with previous conference organizers from Fox Valley Technical College and UW Oshkosh.
 - 2.5.3. **Organize/maintain an archive of conference plans and information from previous years (Conference Group).**
 - 2.5.4. **Continue work on directory of sustainability-related faculty and resources at NEW ERA institutions (Sustainability Group):** This directory would also provide a convenient contact list for anyone interested in organizing a NEW ERA Speaker's Bureau.

2.5.5. Offer the first international trip for NEW ERA faculty.**3. FINAL COMMENT & REQUEST**

The continued success and enthusiasm of the NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group is an indication of not only the dedication of its members but also the relevance of collaboration and transferability issues to faculty. In addition to hosting another successful conference, the group continued its work to strengthen communication and relationships between both institutions and individual faculty members. This year's group sincerely hopes that the work of the FDG will continue with the NEW ERA Board's support, because the group now has established itself as a viable "organization" with strong faculty and instructors, and it benefits from a cohesive thread of collaboration among its members. We therefore would request the NEW ERA Board respond to this report, including any issues or recommendations they would like for the group to consider, items that might not appear in this report that the Board believes should be included, and ways in which the Board would like to continue the work of this group.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We once again thank Jan Thornton, who has organized and initially directed the meetings since our inception in 2005. We also continue to appreciate the various institutions providing funding for our meals and travel at these meetings.

The third annual NEW ERA FDG Collaborative Conference was organized by the FDG Conference Working Group (Mike Albertson, Michael Beeth, Grady Bullington, Maggie Rentmeester, Denise Robson, and Terry Wusterbarth). The group did outstanding work under the leadership of Mike Albertson (who supervised the advance planning and logistics) and Terry Wusterbarth (who coordinated all on-site arrangements one the day of the event), and they are largely responsible for the success of the event. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to NWTC President Jeff Rafn, who supported the conference and underwrote all of the expenses. The group would also like to thank Pam Gerstner (NWTC), who supervised the registration arrangements, and the various presenters at the conference, including Dr. James Perry (Chair, NEW ERA), Dr. Christine Roth (Chair, NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group), and Dr. Susan Albertine (Senior Director, Liberal Education and America's Promise State Initiative, Association of American Colleges & Universities, Washington D.C.), and our emcee through the day, Tim Meyer (UW-Green Bay).

We would like to thank this year's Vice-Chair, Stephanie Erdmann (College of Menominee Nation) for attending the NEW ERA Board meetings and reporting to the FDG each month.

As the FDG has done for the past four years, we would like to thank Fox Valley Technical College for the use of the Bordini Center for our meetings and for the help of FVTC staff member Linda Lazic for handling meeting logistics.

We would like to thank the NEW ERA Board for your confidence in, and continued support of, the NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group.

NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group 2008-2009

Cliff Abbott	Professor, Information and Computing Sciences, UW-Green Bay
Heike Alberts	Assistant Professor, Geography, UW Oshkosh
Mike Albertson	Public Safety Instructor, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
Michael Beeth	Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Services, UW Oshkosh
Derryl Block	Professor and Chair, Nursing, UW-Green Bay
Khaled Boubenider	Mathematics Instructor, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College
Grady Bullington	Associate Professor, Mathematics, UW Oshkosh
Stephanie Erdmann	Faculty Member, Business, College of Menominee Nation
Terry Fleischman	Chair, Electronics, Electrical Engineering Tech and Computer Engineering Tech., Fox Valley Technical College
Al Hanisch	Mathematics Instructor, Moraine Park Technical College
John Hanson	Emergency Management Instructor, Lakeshore Technical College
Kim Horejs	Early Childhood Education Instructor, Fox Valley Technical College
Robert Howe	Professor, Natural and Applied Sciences (Biology), UW-Green Bay
John Katers	Associate Professor, Natural and Applied Sciences (Engineering), UW-Green Bay
Marilyn Kaufmann	Department Chair, Associate Degree, Nursing, Lakeshore Technical College
Evan Kreider	Assistant Professor, Philosophy, UW Fox Valley
Tammy Ladwig	Assistant Professor, Education, UW Fox Valley
Sarah Meredith Livingston	Associate Professor, Art and Visual Design, UW-Green Bay
Jay Moynihan	Community Development Educator, Shawano County UW Extension
Mary Peterson	Technical Communications Instructor, Fox Valley Technical College
Margaret Rentmeester	Nursing Instructor, Moraine Park Technical College
Denise Robson	Associate Professor, Economics, UW Oshkosh
Christine Roth	Associate Professor, English, UW Oshkosh

NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group 2008-2009, continued

Bonnie Silbernagel Accounting Instructor, Lakeshore Technical College

Missy Skurzewski Athletic Director & Assistant Professor, Physical Education, UW Sheboygan

Ron Theys Assistant Professor, Chemistry, UW Fond du Lac

Terri Wilkens Social Science Instructor, Moraine Park Technical College

Ryan Winn Faculty Member, Communications/Theatre, College of Menominee Nation

Terri Wusterbarth Anatomy Physiology Instructor, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College

Conveners on behalf of NEW ERA

Martin Tadlock Assistant Vice Chancellor, Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement,
UW Oshkosh

Jan Thornton Associate Provost, Outreach and Adult Access, UW-Green Bay

Appendix A: Budget Proposal 2008-09

There was no budget for the 2008-2009 Faculty Dialogue Group, per se. NWTC underwrote the costs of the annual conference and each institution paid for the stipend and travel expenses for its respective members. The institutions took turns paying for the group's light lunches at each meeting.

a. Centralized Budget**

Faculty Dialogue Group Meetings

Stipends @ \$1,000	\$28,000
Est. Travel to meetings***	3,570
Lunches for meetings****	1,512

Conference Costs

Food	1,600
Est. Travel for participants*****	2,125
Supplies, Printing, Folders	<u>470</u>

TOTAL **\$37,277**

**This scenario presents all costs associated with the Faculty Dialogue Group and is based on a 28-person membership plan

***Travel estimated on 50 miles round trip x 28 members x 6 meetings @ \$.425

****Lunches estimated at \$9/lunch x 28 people x 6 meetings

*****Travel for conference participants based on 50 miles round trip x 100 participants @ \$.425

Appendix B: Membership Plan

In June 2008, the NEW ERA Board approved a 29-member Faculty Dialogue Group for 2008-2009, adding a representative of UW Cooperative Extension and continuing with initial two-year terms with the option at the end of the term, to “re-enlist” for one more year as a “veteran.” The membership for 2008-2009 was distributed as follows:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Members</u>
UW Oshkosh	5
UW-Green Bay	5
UW Colleges	4
Northeast Wisconsin Technical College	3
Fox Valley Technical College	3
Lakeshore Technical College	3
Moraine Park Technical College	3
College of Menominee Nation	2
UW Cooperative Extension	1
TOTAL	29

The UW Colleges filled all four of their allotted seats on the FDG this year (up from only two filled seats last year), and, based on the recommendation of last year’s FDG and the approval of the NEW ERA Board, we added a 29th seat this year, inviting a representative from UW Cooperative Extension (in this case, the County Resource Development agent from Shawano County).

2009-10 Faculty Dialogue Group

UW Oshkosh: 2 vacancies

Heike Alberts—“One Year”
 Grady Bullington – “Veteran”
 Denise Robson – “Veteran”

UW-Green Bay: 0 vacancies

Cliff Abbott—“One Year”
 Derryl Block—“One Year”
 Bob Howe – “Veteran”
 John Katers – “Veteran”
 Sarah Meredith Livingston—“One Year”

UW Colleges: 0 vacancies

Evan Kreider—“One Year”
 Tammy Ladwig – “One Year”
 Missy Skurzewski – “One Year”
 Ron Theys—“One Year”

FVTC: 1 vacancy

Terry Fleischman—“One Year”
 Kim Horejs – “Veteran”

NWTC: 0 vacancies

Gerald Heins—“Two Years”
 Pennie Tilkins—“Two Years”
 Terri Wusterbarth – “Veteran”

MPTC: 1 vacancy

Al Hanisch – “Veteran”
 Terri Wilkens—“One Year”

LTC: 0 vacancies

John Hanson—“One Year”
 Marilyn Kaufmann – “Veteran”
 Bonnie Silbernagel—“One Year”

CMN: 0 vacancies

Heidi Cartwright—“Two Years”
 Stephanie Erdmann – “Veteran”

UW Extension: 0 vacancies

Jay Moynihan – “One Year”

Appendix C: 2009 Conference Agenda

Time	Activity	Location/Facilitator
8:30-9:00	Registration, continental breakfast, find table seats	
9-9:30	<p>Introductions and Welcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to NWTC • Overview of NEW ERA • Overview of Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG) and Introduction of Video on transferability between institutions 	<p>Emcee: Dr. Tim Meyer, UW-Green Bay</p> <p>Dr. Jeff Rafn, President, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Dr. James Perry, Chair, NEW ERA Dr. Christine Roth, Chair, NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group</p>
9:30-10:15	<p>Discussion within interdisciplinary groups</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is general education? • What is going on at your campus with general education? • What are institution-specific issues regarding general education? • What issues regarding general education are common across campuses? 	<p>Tables Facilitated by Faculty Dialogue Group members</p>
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:15	<p>Discussion within like-discipline groups</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is general education? • What is going on at your campus with general education? • What are institution-specific issues regarding general education? • What issues regarding general education are common across campuses? 	<p>Tables Facilitated by Faculty Dialogue Group members</p>
11:15-1:00	<p>Keynote Address, Luncheon, Discussion</p> <p><i>“General Education for the 21st Century: New Directions, NEW ERA”</i></p>	<p>Dr. Susan Albertine, Senior Director, Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP) State Initiative, Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU), Washington D.C.</p>
1-1:45	<p>General Education within Interest Areas</p> <p><u>Select one:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferability: Opportunities and Concerns • Sustainability across the Curriculum • International Issues in Higher Education • Changing Student Demographics 	<p>Facilitated by FDG’s “Relationships” Group Facilitated by FDG’s “Sustainability” CommitteeGroup Facilitated by FDG’s “International Initiatives” Group Facilitated by FDG’s “Communications Group</p>
1:45-2:00	Break	
2-2:45	<p>General Education with Interest Areas</p> <p><u>Select another:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferability: Opportunities and Concerns • Sustainability across the Curriculum • International Issues in Higher Education • Changing Student Demographics 	<p>Facilitated by FDG’s “Relationships” Group Facilitated by FDG’s “Sustainability” CommitteeGroup Facilitated by FDG’s “International Initiatives” Group Facilitated by FDG’s “Communications Group</p>
2:45-3:10	Report Outs from Afternoon Sessions	
3:10-3:15	Evaluation	

Conference Evaluation Summary

Approximately 100 people attended the April 17 conference at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Green Bay. The faculty who attended were from UW – Green Bay, UW –Oshkosh, UW-Fox Valley, UW-Fond du Lac, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, Fox Valley Technical College, Moraine Park Technical College, Lakeshore Technical College, and the College of Menominee Nation.

The conference focused primarily on faculty who teach general education courses. The conference's goals revolved around providing faculty from the different types of institutions with the opportunity to do the following:

- learn more about the differences and similarities among the various institutions;
- learn more about the benefits of inter-institutional collaboration;
- to learn about the similarities and differences in General Education among the various kinds of NEW ERA institutions;
- to share perspectives on General Education with faculty from other NEW ERA institutions;
- and to learn about what is happening nationally in General Education.

Based on evaluations collected the day of the conference, the conference successfully met each of these goals. The conference received especially high marks on the evaluations for enabling participants to talk individually with faculty members from other campuses (4.68 out of 5), familiarizing participants with the similarities and differences in General Education among the various kinds of NEW ERA institutions (4.05 out of 5), and generally accomplishing the objectives of the conference (4.02 out of 5). Most faculty indicated that they would continue to have contact with colleagues from other campuses after the conference (3.6 out of 5).

Written comments were generally complimentary and many participants indicated that they would be interested in participating in the Faculty Dialogue Group's possible summer trip to Germany.

Appendix D: Faculty Dialogue Group Guiding Principles

The 2000 Fox River Valley Regional Economic Summit identified educational collaboration as a top priority among educational institutions within northeast Wisconsin. As a result the Northeast Wisconsin Educational Resource Alliance (NEW ERA) was created.

The current Mission Statement of the NEW ERA is a consortium of the leaders of the thirteen public colleges and universities in northeast Wisconsin who foster regional partnerships to serve better the educational needs of the 1.2 million people of northeast Wisconsin. The current Vision Statement is that NEW ERA will be a valued leader in: (1) collaborating to serve northeast Wisconsin with quality, seamless education; (2) providing essential resources for communities, businesses and government; and (3) driving regional--and thereby state--economic development and stability.

In the summer of 2005, the NEW ERA Board requested a Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG) be established of volunteers representing the different institutions involved in the alliance. The overall charge to the group was based on a strategy of the NEW ERA Board to develop a more seamless higher educational environment for students among the various NEW ERA institutions. Specifically the group was to

1. identify and clarify interinstitutional collaboration issues between the educational institutions,
2. explore teaching and curriculum in the educational institutions, particularly in relation to credit transfer potential, and
3. recommend specific strategies, activities and events to build stronger Relationships among the faculty of NEW ERA institutions.

The following are the guiding principles for the FDG to guide them to achieve their charge from the NEW ERA Board.

1. MISSION

- 1.1.** The Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG) was established to and will continue to foster open discussion of Faculty & Instructional issues relating to the various institutions within the NEW ERA organization. The FDG will work as the vehicle to initiate and maintain discussion to aid in collaboration among the faculty and instructors, and to work toward a better relationship between the NEW ERA institutions.

2. MEMBERSHIP**2.1. Eligibility**

- 2.1.1. All faculty and instructors under contract at any of the NEW ERA institutions are eligible to participate in the Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG).
- 2.1.2. A “veteran” will be a member who has served at least 2 years in the group.
- 2.1.3. A “continuing member” will be a member who is in the second year of FDG membership.
- 2.1.4. A “new member” will be a member who is in his or her first year of FDG membership.

2.2. Institutional Representatives

- 2.2.1. All NEW ERA institutions are encouraged to have at least one representative on the FDG.
- 2.2.2. The NEW ERA Board will annually approve the actual number of FDG representatives they will support.

3. OFFICERS

- 3.1.** The FDG will maintain a minimum of 3 Officers responsible for guiding, directing, and recording the activities of the group.

- 3.1.1. The Chair will be responsible for overall function of the group. The Chair's responsibility will include, but is not limited to
 - conducting FDG meetings including development of the meeting agendas
 - establishing ad hoc committees and charging them with specific responsibilities
 - 3.1.2. The Vice-Chair will be responsible for aiding the Chair in their responsibilities, and conduct FDG meetings in the absence of the Chair. The Vice-Chair will become the Chair by default in the following year.
 - 3.1.3. The Recorder will be responsible for maintaining the minutes of each meeting and any other reports created by the group. The Recorder has the power to delegate this responsibility to other FDG members when necessary. The Recorder will become the Vice-Chair by default in the following year.
 - 3.2. The three Officers will be representative of three of the four different institution types associated with the NEW ERA (University of Wisconsin Comprehensives, University of Wisconsin Colleges, Wisconsin Technical Colleges, and the Tribal Colleges).
 - 3.3. New Members to the FDG should not be eligible to be Chair or Vice-Chair, and it is preferred that Veterans not be a Vice-Chair.
 - 3.4. Elections will be conducted at the first meeting of an academic year to elect a new Recorder.
 - 3.4.1. In the event an Officer from the previous year is no longer an eligible member of the FDG or has resigned his or her position, a special election will be held to elect a new Officer.
 - 3.4.2. The vacant Officer position should be filled with eligible members from the same institution type as the previous Officer. An exception to this can be approved by a majority vote by the entire FDG membership as long as three different institution types are represented by the Officers.
 - 3.5. All elections shall be by anonymous paper ballot. No matter the number of candidates, a majority of votes will determine the winner of the election.
 - 3.5.1. If a majority is not attained by a candidate on the first election, another election will be conducted with the candidates with the two highest percentage of the first election (indicating more than 2 candidates can be in the next election).
- 4. FUNCTION**
- 4.1. The function of the FDG will be to accomplish its mission through various activities relating, but not limited to
 - annual reports generated by the FDG
 - relevant issues identified by the FDG as concurrent to the mission not previously addressed
 - directive from the NEW ERA Board
 - 4.1.1. An agenda of specific activities for the coming year will be provided or established at the first meeting of the academic year and approved by the entire FDG by a majority vote.
- 5. BUDGET**
- 5.1. Before the end of the academic year, the Officers of the FDG will develop a budget for the coming year to propose to the NEW ERA Board of Director.
 - 5.2. The NEW ERA Board will review the proposal and approve an annual budget for the FDG to conduct its activities for the next year before the first meeting of the next academic year of the FDG.
 - 5.3. The FDG will utilize any designated funds for specific activities by the Board for those activities only.
 - 5.4. Funds not designated for specific activities will be utilized by the group to supplement the designated activities or to conduct any other activities as approved by a majority of the FDG.
- 6. REPORTING**

- 6.1.** The FDG will produce an annual report outlining their activities, outcomes, and proposed future activities to the NEW ERA Board of Directors. This report will be produced by the Officers or an ad hoc committee charged by the Officers.
- 6.2.** When requested by the NEW ERA Board of Director, representatives from the FDG will also present in person their report to the Board.