

The NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG) 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

- identify and clarify interinstitutional collaboration issues between the educational institutions,
- explore teaching and curriculum in the educational institutions, particularly in relation to credit transfer potential, and
- 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.