

Report and Recommendations of the NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group June 18, 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2012-13 Faculty Dialogue Group (FDG) met in its eight regularly-scheduled Friday afternoon time slots. This was an eventful year in Wisconsin higher education, with continuing budget challenges and an unusual amount of political and fourth estate discourse about higher education in the state. Regardless, the FDG proceeded with its mission, which includes learning about and monitoring new post-secondary delivery methods, such as the online courses and “MOOCs” that are now part of our landscape. Wisconsin is also proceeding with flexible degree plans and a new model cooperative degree in Engineering Technology. In addition to its monthly meetings, the FDG sponsored, organized, and staffed a half-day conference on Service Learning during Spring 2013 that was open to all employees and students of all NEW ERA institutions. Service learning engages students in active citizenship that benefits not only students, but also campuses, employers, and communities across the state.

ANNUAL REPORT

The guiding principles of the NEW ERA Faculty Dialogue Group may be found online at <http://www.neweraonline.org/media/43037/guiding-principles.pdf>.

At the final meeting of the *prior* year (2011-12), the FDG elected Rebecca Abler and Dana Merriman as co-chairs. At the first meeting of the 2012-13 year (the subject of this report), Brittani Meinnert was appointed Recorder.

Our meeting agendas this year were dominated by current events and trends involving higher education in Wisconsin. These included, but were not limited to:

- Higher education advocacy in the current state political climate
- Governor Walker’s Sullivan Report and the state’s “skills gap”
- Military veteran students
- Flexible degree programs based on competencies
- UW Oshkosh’s new University Studies Program
- Going beyond student “access” to “success” using new courses for entering freshmen
- New degree programs at various NEW ERA institutions

One of this year’s notable academic trends was online higher education delivery, some facet of which was discussed at every FDG meeting. Of particular interest to the FDG is the new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology degree program, which is set to debut in Fall 2013. We respectfully suggest that new FDG members be appointed from among the ranks at each institution who will teach in the new Engineering Technology curriculum. Such

appointments may go far to promote the cooperative effort intrinsic in this novel, inter-institutional, NEW-region degree program.

The FDG hosted several NEW ERA region college/university administrators at our monthly meetings, as their schedules allowed. We were joined by Dr. Susan May (Fox Valley Technical College) in November 2012, Dr. Greg Kleinheinz (UW Oshkosh) in March 2013, Dr. John Short (UW Fond du Lac) in April 2013, and Dr. Martin Rudd (UW Fox Valley) in May 2013.

Annual FDG Conference

This year, the annual FDG conference theme was “Service Learning”. It was hosted by UW Fond du Lac (courtesy FDG member Michael Jurmu) on Friday, April 12, 2013. We had a logo contest open to students from all NEW ERA institutions and the winning design (by UW Fox Valley’s Alexandria House) was used on our publicity materials. Approximately 40 persons attended this free conference. Feedback was uniformly positive (see Appendix).

Our keynote speaker was Randy Stoecker, Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology, UW Madison. We had breakout sessions where we learned about student and employer perspectives on Service Learning.

After this most successful conference, the FDG discussed the problematic spring timing of the FDG conferences to date. Attendance suffers because of holidays and conflicting events, and there seems to be less time available as the academic year winds down. We feel we’d get better attendance in fall, but it’s too short of notice for the new FDG members of the hosting campus to be at their first FDG meeting ever, in September, and then to host a conference a month later. We therefore decided to take the plunge and switch up the conference schedule as follows: there will be *no* FDG conference during 2013-14, but UW Green Bay will host one in September or October 2014. That gives UW Green Bay plenty of time to plan.

We felt that the 2014 FDG conference could capitalize on the FDG’s “roots” by addressing the “seamless education” intrinsic in cross-institutional degree programs. We advise using the new Engineering Technology degree program as a “lessons learned” theme object. Obviously, the UW Green Bay FDG members (along with convener Dr. Vanden Avond) will have the final say in the conference theme.

Opening Year Agenda for September 2013:

- Introduce new FDG members.
- Elect new FDG officers (chair + vice chair, or co-chairs; plus recorder).
- Plan possible 2013-14 evening event that would have broad practical appeal but not as much commitment as a conference, such as a “rubric fair”.
- Assist UW Green Bay members in early planning of Sept or Oct 2014 FDG conference.

Acknowledgements

The FDG thanks NEW ERA who had the forethought to fund the FDG conference and indeed the expenses associated with FDG meetings. We thank our co-conveners, Chris Matheny (Vice President and Chief Academic Officer) of Fox Valley Technical College and Steve VandenAvond (Associate Provost) of UW Green Bay. We also thank Fox Valley Technical College for the use of the Bordini Center for our monthly meetings. We honor the service of Linda Lazic, who provided administrative support the past several years and who retired this year.

Appendices:**A. 2012-13 FDG Membership List (* after name denote # of years remaining on 3 year term)**

Abler, Rebecca (UW Manitowoc)
 Berg, Melissa** (Moraine Park Technical College)
 Bryan, Catherine (UW Oshkosh)
 Cooper, Susan* (UW Green Bay)
 Farrell, Chris** (Fox Valley Technical College)
 Ganyard, Clif* (UW Green Bay)
 Heinen, Chris** (Lakeshore Technical College)
 Jurmu, Michael (UW Fond du Lac)
 Larson, Jill (Northeast WI Technical College)
 Martin, Ryan** (UW Green Bay)
 McNellis, Kathi* (Lakeshore Technical College)
 Meinnert, Britanni** (Lakeshore Technical College)
 Merriman, Dana (UW Oshkosh)
 Neal, Kay (UW Oshkosh)
 O'Brien, Jonathan (Northeast WI Technical College)
 Olson, Jim (Moraine Park Technical College)
 Putnam, Paul* (UW Extension Marinette Co.)
 Rohm, Dawn (Fox Valley Technical College)
 Schommer, Bobbi (Moraine Park Technical College)
 Singh, Bhaskar** (College of Menominee Nation)
 Stark, Teri** (Fox Valley Technical College)
 Sulk, Roberta** (Northeast WI Technical College)
 Van Lopik, Bill (College of Menominee Nation)
 West, Keith (UW Marinette)
 Wondergem, Julie (UW Green Bay)

Ex officio:

Bartelt, Linda (NEW ERA Executive Director)
 Matheny, Chris (FDG Convener, Fox Valley Technical College)
 Vanden Avond, Steve (FDG Convener, UW Green Bay)

FDG membership allowances and (2012-13 vacancies):

College of Menominee Nation, 2 (0)
 Fox Valley Technical College, 3 (0)
 Lakeshore Technical College, 3 (0)
 Moraine Park Technical College, 3 (0)
 Northeast WI Technical College, 3 (0)
 UW Colleges, 6 (3)
 UW Cooperative Extension, 1 (0)
 UW Green Bay, 5 (0)
 UW Oshkosh, 5 (2)

Note: FDG membership is set to turn over significantly in 2013-14 due to the large number of **3-year terms being up** (see red ink in list above). Indeed, some on this year's list were actually in their *fourth* year of service. We respectfully suggest that new FDG members be appointed from among the ranks at each institution who will teach in the new Engineering Technology curriculum.

B. FDG monthly meeting minutes: available upon request from merrimad@uwosh.edu .

C. Annual FDG Conference Agenda

TIME	ROOM	SESSION
8:00 am	UC-114 (LGI)	<u>Registration & Refreshments</u>
9:00 am	UC-114 (LGI)	<u>Welcome</u> Dana Merriman – UW Oshkosh and NEW ERA FDG Co-Chair John Short – Chief Executive Officer and Dean, UW Fond du Lac
9:10 am	UC-114 (LGI)	<u>“Community Change and the College Classroom”</u> Randy Stoecker – University of Wisconsin Madison
10:00 am	UC-114 (LGI)	<u>Graphics and Marketing Communications Student Award</u> Alexandria House (Fox Valley Technical College)
10:10 am	C-103 & C-112	<u>Faculty & Student Roundtable – Best Practices & Lessons Learned in Service Engagement</u>
	C-103 Faculty:	Melissa Berg – Communications (MPTC) Bobbi Schommer – Medical Assistant (MPTC)
	Students:	Josh Wyno (UW-FDL) Carly Dorn (MPTC) Michelle Johnson (MPTC)
	C-112 Faculty:	Janet Bauer – Medical Assistant (MPTC) Mike Jurmu – Geography & Geology (UW-FDL)
	Students:	Dan Priest (UW-FDL) Liz Reta (MPTC) Vicki Passineau (MPTC)
11:10 am	UC-114 (LGI)	<u>Community Partners Roundtable – Impact of Service Engagement</u> Kay Vandervort – Executive Director - Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Fond du Lac Karissa Schneider – Director of Operations – Boys & Girls Club of Fond du Lac
11:45 am		<u>Service Engagement in Higher Education (Choose a session)</u>
	C-103	1. How to Incorporate Service Learning – Jenni Walsh, Wisconsin Campus Compact

- C-104** 2. Service Engagement Excellence – Stephanie Wolf, Service Learning Coordinator, (LTC)
- C-112** 3. Service Engagement and General Education Curriculum (Quest III) –Tracy Slagter and Michael Lueder, (UW Oshkosh)
- C-113** 4. Creating Partnerships in Jamaica: Furthering the Concept of Global Citizenship through Co-Curricular Service – Vicky Barke & Shannon Gerke Corrigan (FVTC)

12:30 pm **UC-114 (LGI)** **Luncheon Celebration!** Raffle and Displays

D. Annual FDG Conference Evaluation Summary

These data are from 14 evaluation respondents.

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I know more than before the conference about service engagement.	0%	0%	7.1%	28.6%	64.3%
I know more than before the conference about how to integrate service engagement in the classroom.	0%	0%	7.1%	42.9%	50%
The roundtable discussions enhanced my knowledge of service engagement.	0%	0%	7.1%	21.4%	71.4%
I was able to productively engage with other faculty and/or community partners.	0%	0%	0%	50%	50%
The location worked well.	0%	0%	14.3%	0%	85.7%
The format for the day was effective.	0%	0%	7.1%	42.9%	50%
Overall, the conference met my expectations.	0%	0%	0%	42.9%	57.1%
Which service engagement session did you attend?	8.3% “How to incorporate service learning”	33.3% “Focus on service”	8.3% “Creating contributors: community education as general education at UW Oshkosh”	50.0% “Creating partnerships in Jamaica: Furthing the concept of global citizenship through co-curricular service”	
What type of institution do you represent?	64.3% Technical College	7.1% Tribal College	21.4% UW 4-year Campus	7.1% UW 2-year Campus	

Respectfully submitted,  Dana Merriman, co-chair