B&G Work Group: Summary of ideas presented at the February 19th meeting

We discussed a reordering of the strategies posted on the web under our group that is reflected below. Basically, much of what we had generated at the retreat goes under our first initiative which is indicated as A. below.

Notes on our discussion on February 19th:

A: EWU will offer an integrated education at the baccalaureate level.
(From our Previous #1)

- General education and major will allow students to explore
  - Create new learning expectations that involve an integrated/interdependent experience (to do this we will research other institution and relevant literature [9 dots]
  - The student should experience an integrated perspective in at least one course

- Create new learning expectations: We decided we need to do more reading on this issue, and one of the members provided the URL of a site with a bibliography on general education:

  Some ideas about what students should know and be able to do were offered:
  - Do research on the Web. Be well informed in the area of information literacy.
  - Engage in independent thinking and problem solving

- The student should experience an integrated perspective in at least one course
  - It was suggested that a course might focus on an ‘era’ where students would study what was happening in the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences during the period.
  - We were sent the URL for the UW Milwaukee Core Courses
    http://www.uwm.edu/MilwaukeeIdea/CC/ The link on Spring 2004 courses provides interesting ideas for integrated core courses
  - We discussed the notion of UNIV courses that might be housed at the University level. These courses could be where students are engaged in their ‘general education experiences.’ Subjects taught in many departments could be taught under this heading also, and they would provide an opportunity for students from different disciplines to be in classes together. Examples include, ethics, communication, statistics, graphics design, and research methods.
  - The idea of using ‘guest appearances’ to provide integration was suggested. In a ‘guest appearance,’ a faculty member from one discipline would spend
15-30 minutes in a general education course, or a faculty member from a general education course could ‘appear’ in a course in the major.

OTHER IDEAS:

- Students aren’t ‘ready’ for college. They come ready to receive their education, as opposed to ready to participate in it. This idea links to the student success group. Ideas regarding freshman courses and/or freshman orientation were discussed.

- Indiana/Purdue and New Jersey College were mentioned by Mark as sources for ideas.

February 26 notes:

We discussed current practices/entities that do (or might) address integration.

- Capstone courses
- CSBS Courses designed under the FIPSE grant
- An Environmental Studies Course where several faculty receive credit for teaching
- Centers at the University
- Women’s Studies certificate program

Possible models for integration in general education:
- House courses at the University level.
- Link courses (either within the same quarter or over the year.)

We discussed possible obstacles to integration:

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For next week we plan to discuss what we mean when we say students’ learning experience should be integrative. Efforts will be made to find copies of the work done by the Integrated Studies Task Force.
For future meetings the group plans the following:
A. Continue the discussion of an integrated education
   1) Work on a definition of integration; find documents from the Integrated Studies Task Force
   2) Move on to ideas for integration in the major, and
   3) Introduce the idea of interdisciplinary opportunities in graduate programs.
B. Address other quality issues at the undergraduate and graduate level.