StART II FLC

Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2013

Opening

The regular meeting of the StART II FLC was called to order at 4:10 pm on February 20, 2013 in the OfS by Bill Davis.

Originating Membership

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Present

Faculty Participants: Denise Keele, Tim Palmer, Carol Weideman, Kevin High, Lisa Whittaker
Guests: Jaime Hirsh, Kim Juwong

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Open Issues

Re-Introductions

Announcement: A $1000 incentive will also be offered to a faculty member willing to take on development of a sustainability literacy assessment as outlined in STARS Credit ER 6 – Sustainability Literacy Assessment. Please contact Kim Juwong at wmu-strategicplanning@wmich.edu or Jody Brylinsky if you are interested in taking on this project.

Follow-up of Dr. Mitch Thomashow’s Visit – helpful in suggesting ways to incorporate sustainability into curriculum

Lisa Whittaker: Are sustainability courses intended to be gen ed courses?

Sustainability at WMU - Review (and John/Jane letter)
- WMU Strategic Plan – Goal #5
- WMU sustainability fee – initiated by students
- Sustainability influences enrollment and retention rates
- WMU’s administration and students have emphasized importance of sustainability
- Behaviors associated with sustainability – for example: using trash cans that are more attractive/interactive over recycling bins
- Creating awareness/outreach to WMU students

Tim Palmer: Do your colleagues get it?
- Some departments (environmental studies) get it, others don’t
- Do faculty members not understand the idea of sustainability? Or do they not want extra pressure/extra work?
- Tim/Carol to focus on social sustainability

Resources
- Sustainability library located in OfS
- AASHE and STARS: www.aashe.org

The Role of StART II
- Focus on curriculum first (until October), grants/research to follow
- Goal: submit course proposals by October 2013, to be implemented Fall 2014

Homework
What are common practices involving sustainability in your fields?
Can you find sustainability in the “Hidden Curriculum”??
- Identify components of your courses that already contribute to sustainability
- Small things contribute – Bill’s example of including a recycling/printing note on course syllabi
- ART5000 Art and the Earth – sustainability focused course
- Gordon Art Fellowship – opportunities for students
- City of Portage Parks – Recycled Art in the Park

What teaching methods would you like to employ?
- Respond to real world needs that make students more employable
- Discuss ideas with faculty across departments, folks in industry related to your field – bring those ideas back to this space

What are the protocols for your college curriculum committee?

Administration and students (both current and incoming) want better sustainability practices/programs/courses. Initiative from faculty will provide the needed link.

Please see link on WMU’s OfS webpage for updates/minutes/homework/readings for StART II FLC: http://www.wmich.edu/sustainability/research/start-ii-flc including audio from Dr. Mitchell Thomashow’s keynote lecture on February 8, 2013. You might also find footage from similar lectures at other universities via Youtube.

New Business
Summarize the discussion for new issues, state the next steps, and assign any action item.

**Agenda for Next Meeting**

List the items to be discussed at the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm by Bill Davis. The next general meeting will be at 4 – 5:30 pm on February 27, 2013, in the Office for Sustainability.

Minutes submitted by: Kim Juwong
Approved by: [Name]