Improvement of Learning Committee
Tuesday, October 17, 2006
4:00 p.m. – 320 Brigham

Present: Laura Anderson, Kevin Concannon, Martha Drummond, Kevin Haertzen, Dick Klawiter, Stan Lukowski, Tom Lo Guidice, Louis Nzegwu, Esther Ofulue, Rhea Presiado, Sue Price.

Absent: Carol Sue Butts (Provost), Gwen Coe, Ben Collins (Chair),

Guest: Kathy Lomax, Warner Smidt

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., in 320 Brigham, by Tom Lo Guidice, whom is sub-chairing for Ben Collins

1. Appointment of Secretary of the day: Kevin Haertzen

2. Approval of Minutes. Kathy Lomax indicated that she did not attend the 10/03/06 meeting, as indicated in the minutes. Kevin moved for approval of the corrected minutes, and Laura Anderson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Announcements. Tom announced that at noon tomorrow, 10/18/06, there is a presentation titled ‘Why do Freshman Fail?’, in 151 Doudna. He indicated that this may lead to 2 grants. Need to bring your own lunch.

4. Update from the NSSE/HLC Subcommittee. Tom LoGudice updated the committee on the NSSE report on feedback from the Deans. Tom indicated that letters went out in May on the NSSE report asking for feedback from the Deans. A reminder letter to the Deans went out 8-9 days ago. They are asked to respond by Nov 6th.

5. Laptop Computers. Discussion led by guest, Warner Smidt. Warner announced that on Tuesday, 10/24/06, Gateway will have a workshop on tablet PC’s. Anyone may attend. Warner indicated that in order for Laptops in the classroom to succeed, it needs to begin with interested faculty / pockets of faculty getting involved (for example, in curriculum development).

Martha asked about funding. Warner indicated $500 per semester cost at Winona State for each machine, for a lease arrangement. Martha questioned whether there is student learning or just viewing e-mail / not paying attention. Warner responded that there are instructor/faculty control over the PC’s/Laptops to disable certain functions. Esther asked who will pay for Laptops for faculty? This broadened into a general dollar issue raised by Sue that bringing in Laptops may mean that something else will need to be cut. What will go?
Rhea indicated that many schools are pursuing this idea. She indicated that she would help with pilot studies, and look at data. Dick indicated that Laptops would allow every classroom to become a lab, and there will be dollar savings on student help needed to run dedicated labs. Martha said that tech rooms are useful, but we don’t have general tech room (level 3) available to us except by chance. Louis indicated that tech rooms make life easier, that teaching is effective and it cuts down on paper work.

Warner indicated that at Stout, Laptop implementation has not added a significant increase in cost. Warner concluded by indicating that he wanted the ILC to be aware of the issue of getting Laptops into the classroom. Going forward, he felt that we need faculty, et al, to develop a list of questions / issues on infrastructure, financing, etc. We can join a discussion forum on D2L. Send your email address to Warner to become involved with this.

Warner indicated that Stout will host a spring conference on the digital environment. Tom has a link.

6. **Review of Sabbatical Proposals.** Martha and Louis presented their subcommittee report. They went through their decisions, a copy of which was passed out, ranking the requests. Dick asked how many will be funded, and Martha replied that the Regents will review and decide. Martha indicated that this is one of several rankings, from which final decisions will be based. Esther moved to accept the recommendations of the sabbatical subcommittee as ranked. The motion was seconded by Dick and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting date will be Tuesday, November 07, 2006, 4:00 p.m., in 320 Brigham Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Kevin Haertzen