Improvement of Learning Committee  
Minutes of the November 20th, 2007 Meeting  
320 Brigham, 4:00 p.m.

In attendance: Michael Anderson, Stephanie Branson, Carol Sue Butts, Shane Drefcinski, Kevin Haertzen, Michael Ira, Osama Jadaan, Justin Kile, Tom LoGuidice, Colleen McCabe, Tracy Roberts, Warner Smidt, George Smith, M. Keith Thompson, Adam Stanley

1) The agenda was approved, with the postponement of the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved later in the meeting, with a spelling change.

2) Announcements:

a) A Feb. 15th deadline was proposed by Kathy Lomax on campus for nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award. The Provost recommended putting the deadline back to Feb. 5th to allow the ILC Subcommittee to review the nominations. The subcommittee will bring recommendations to the ILC at the Feb. 19th meeting.

b) The Provost announced that beginning in spring 2008, the ILC would meet in one of the new conference rooms in Ullsvik (room 2007).

c) The first meeting of the General Education Taskforce will be Thursday, the 29th at 5:50 p.m. This will be a dinner meeting primarily set up for organizational purposes.

d) Kevin Haertzen proposed that the findings of the taskforce might be reported on a regular basis to the ILC. There is a deadline set in early April for a new model of general education to be proposed to the UUCC and the Faculty Senate. Both Haertzen and Shane Drefcinski are on the taskforce, and Haertzen indicated that if any members of the ILC had opinions regarding general education that they wished the taskforce to consider, that they could convey those opinions to him.

e) Tom LoGuidice thanks the planning committee for suggestions for TEC activities for spring 2008. The Center welcomes suggestions for more topics to cover.

New Business

a) George Smith reported extensively on the 2006 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Report, including benchmark comparisons with other UW-System schools, Carnegie Peers, and the national results. UWP compared favorably with these other institutions in the categories of Active and Collaborative Learning, Student-Faculty Interaction, and Supportive Campus Environment, with seniors answering more positively than in earlier studies. Continued areas of concern include offering a more diverse environment. Smith mentioned some shortcomings of the Report, saying that weighting was a problem (i.e. the population of Freshmen does not reflect the actual population). The benchmarks are new; they were selected by the NSSE staff. There are some
quality control issues also. Students take the survey online; the next survey will be done in spring. The Provost asked for clarification of the data for the purpose of possible actions by such bodies as the ILC based on the report. Michael Anderson asked how many students were represented in terms of statistical differences of, say, .001 positive or negative change from the 2004 Report. Kevin Haertzen asked for the norm, rather than the mean, in the data. Smith offered to answer questions about the report, and noted that the results would be available to faculty. McCabe said that results could be found on the NSSE website. Haertzen suggested that we review the Report, and discuss it further at a later meeting.

b) Further discussion of the General Education Standards will be deferred to a later meeting.

c) Haertzen asked members to review the ILC subcommittee agenda, checking the workload.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:58. Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Branson.