

University Studies Program 2015 Progress Report – October 29, 2013

Purpose

Provide update on USP 2015 program. Review progress, ongoing efforts, and identify challenges.

Background

- Provost Allen (2010) published white paper calling for review of the USP 2003 USP. Launched three task forces to review and implement an outcomes-based program.
- **USP Stage 1** Task Force (2011) – recommended student-learning outcomes (**Indy Burke**).
 - Based on Essential Learning Outcomes developed by Association of American Colleges and Universities as part of its LEAP campaign (Liberal Education and America's Promise)
 - Outcomes organized in three broad categories: breadth of knowledge, skills and competencies, personal and social responsibility
- **USP Stage 2** Task Force (2012) – adopted learning outcomes developed by Stage 1 Task Force with minor modifications (**Alyson Hagy**).
 - Three broad categories preserved
 - Fifteen learning outcomes emerged
 - Proposed 30 semester hours of coursework
- **USP Stage 3** Task Force (2013) formed in late February 2013 to resolve practical issues needed to implement the new USP (**Steve Barrett**).

Progress

- Rollout package approved by USP 3 Task Force October 4, 2013. Contents include:
 - USP 2015 overview of assessment and course approval
 - USP learning outcomes – full definitions
 - USP learning outcomes by course
 - USP curriculum map
 - Proposed plan for assessment
 - Course approval process for Human Culture (H), Physical and Natural World (PN), Quantitative Reasoning (Q), and U.S. and Wyoming Constitution (V)
 - Flow chart for H, PN, Q, V
 - Course approval process for FYS and Com
 - Flow chart for First Year Seminar (FYS) and Communication courses (Com)
 - Recommendation and Polices (finalize at Oct 18, 2013 meeting)

Current Activities

- Developed job descriptions for university-wide assessment coordinator, first year seminar coordinator, and communications sequence coordinator.
 - Funded release time provided for these positions
 - Position announcements released October 4, 2013.
- Update provided to Faculty Senate, September 30, 2013.
- Joint meeting between Faculty Senate and USP3 Task Force October 28, 2013. Faculty Senate passed SR 322: "Faculty Senate accepts and supports the Task Force 3 Report, "University Studies Program 2015," and approves the General Education requirements presented in the report."
- Upon Faculty Senate approval, personally visit all Community College partners in late 2013/early 2014.

S.Barrett/Oct 29, 2013