**Signature Experiences Coordinating Council**

**Minutes, November 8, 2017**

**Education 205, 1:30 - 2:50 PM**

Present: Mindi McMann, Jeff Osborn, Kit Murphy, Liz Bapasola, Alvin Tran, Christa Olson, Avani Rana, Michael Nordquist

Absent: Anshel Bright, Maureen Connelly, Jarret Crawford

1. **Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2017 meeting**
2. **Updates**

Individuals representing Liberal Learning

* + 1. Liberal Learning Council is putting in a proposal with CAP regarding degree-level goals.
  1. Community Engaged Learning and Research
     1. Miriam Shakow will be the newest member of the SECC.
     2. Council created and voted on six shared learning outcomes and now needs to take it to CAP. (See Team Drive under 11.8.2017 folder for list of learning outcomes)
     3. Council forming two subcommittees - Assessment Committee to put a multi-year assessment plan together and Faculty Development Committee
  2. Leadership
     1. The Leadership Task Force is developing a scaffolding of leadership offerings so there is a tiered rubric of foundational, intermediate, advanced levels with designated outcomes.
     2. This January there will be a Leadership course taking place in India, offering an Advanced CEL/Leadership/Global Engagement combination
     3. The Management department approved a course in Strasbourg for CEL/Leadership/Global Engagement and the Leadership Office is creating a general collaboration with that department and the School of the Arts and Communication.
  3. Global Engagement
     1. Launching a global engagement review. Three working groups:
        1. deep dive on global engagement
        2. mapping global footprint
        3. looking at institutional climate on global students. Using the term “global student” intentionally.
     2. Review of The College of New Jersey’s Study Centers
        1. Christa saw that there was not widespread knowledge of how the study centers came about and is asking for faculty to come to study centers to learn more about them, with the goals of providing:
           1. Academic review so there’s more confidence at what’s happening at the study centers.
           2. Think about how the opportunities offered can complement the academic programs offered.

1. **Discussion of Signature Experiences at other Institutions. What was notable?**
   1. Elon’s Transcript - visual transcript and traditional one
      1. Parallels our Signature Experiences so much
      2. Question on how it is managed; Lion’s Gate could allow for this, but the transcript at Elon’s comes from the Registrar’s Office
      3. Liked how it explicitly said that you had to do two of the options
   2. Each of the institutions we reviewed included the same or very similar programs as our Signature Experiences.
   3. Many of all of them are transcripted in some fashion.
   4. In order to be distinctive we need to think about the scaffolding of our Signature Experiences and the scaffolding between them.
   5. Diversity of solutions from sampling of schools.
      1. Univ. of Georgia - each school comes up with their own approach
      2. Kent State - similar to Honors with the Plus 1 credit course element
      3. FSU - honors society with a medallion at graduation, and isn’t for all students
   6. Jeff Coker is now at Westminster College in PA, so he could potentially come to campus to share more about his research on Elon’s program.
   7. Univ. of Central Oklahoma has conference in March, with someone from Elon as a guest speaker.
   8. Elon stands out by making a longer term investment of “engaged learning” and the way they’ve woven it across the fabric of the institution. They’ve achieved some significant outcomes of their students and beyond just marketing of it. Elon is the best model for how an institution has institutionalized deep engaged learning and to grow and study it in terms of own research efforts. Elon has been doing this work for decades.
      1. Should bring someone from Elon to learn from them, but send a TCNJ team to Elon as well.
   9. We haven’t packaged it as nicely as them and need to think about how we scaffold our SEs.
   10. We need to focus on depth of experiences and how we connect the dots in an intentional level, as the learning outcomes from the individual SEs overlap quite a bit already.
   11. Unclear what kind of advising goes on at Elon to communicate its program to students.
   12. Need to articulate the pathways for students to see how to go about the levels of SEs.
   13. Must weave in SEs with the rest of their academic and co-curricular work.
   14. Have to have significant conversations with TCNJ faculty about the advising piece and get to the depth of the students’ learning.
   15. Elon - just recently academic advisors looks at students’ Engagement transcript and not just academic transcript
       1. At TCNJ, those conversations are happening with faculty advisors, but don’t have an apparatus of all the SEs that are available to students.
       2. Example: most faculty don’t know about all the leadership development opportunities out there for students, nor even look at the group project experience as a leadership learning opportunity.
          1. FSP faculty could be a place to start with this education. There is currently not a lot of onboarding for faculty who teach FSPs because we haven’t resourced it a lot.
   16. We need to think about what we need to give up in order to resource this all appropriately. We must integrate into our current structures and systems without adding.
   17. Liked the FSU program’s requirement to have a synthesis reflection on the students’ experiences and that they give students recognition for this.
       1. TCNJ students have a hard time currently articulating their learning.
   18. Could synthesis reflection be a capstone that all students do at TCNJ?
   19. How could FSP be connected to setting up the pathways to the SEs?
   20. Could we have students reflect on a certain number of prompts each year for a synthesis reflection, but hard to get faculty on board and determine who is going to read all these reflections.
       1. Idea: Additional quarter unit for reflection?
       2. Idea: E-portfolio?
   21. What would incentivize students to participate in the SEs?
       1. Students want to see something tangible, such as on PAWs, to see work they did. “This is what I got as a result of \_\_\_\_.”
       2. Students want recognition and feedback on their work.
   22. Lion’s Gate has component to create an online curriculum, and Avani has been working with Michael on potentially getting one off the group for the Bonner program.
   23. At TCNJ there is a co-curricular certificate, a curricular certificate, and a blended co-curricular/curricular certificate process in place, and the approval process needs to go through CAP and CSCC.
   24. There are Badging programs out there to “credential” students’ work, but a badging program is not about reflecting on deep learning.
   25. Need to think about accessibility and financial behaviors to doing the SEs, and could we have scholarships that support SEs at TCNJ?
       1. TCNJ had some scholarships in the past, and we do have scholarship for Operation Lead for some students who are in financial need.
       2. Could put in an application for Strategic Initiatives for Signature Experiences - call goes out in Feb. 2018.
   26. Univ. of Georgia has very desegregated model as a big institution.
   27. Need to remember that at TCNJ there some SEs that are more accessible for some majors/Schools.
2. **Discussion of how to approach tasks outlined at October 11, 2017 meeting.**

**Should we prioritize tasks? Work on tasks as a group sequentially? Divide tasks among working groups and work simultaneously?**

1. Priorities
   1. Communication is key
      1. Start with communicating with each other about what we’re already doing and the impact of what we’re doing, and then communicate that to others outside of this group.
      2. Can’t do the integrated scaffolding areas until we know what we do and tell our story.
      3. The impact part is the hardest part to articulate but our community needs to hear this the most.
      4. Valuable to have a conversation on what these SE words mean.
      5. Example: PR campaign for our SEs.
   2. Defining what is “High Impact” - Jeff will add an article about this.
      1. Idea: Should we apply for a Strategic Initiatives grant to better understand High Impact Practices and host a one-day Summit like the Achievement Gap event?
   3. Any one of these SE areas is not a widespread priority at the institution and we need to communicate how to integrate the SEs and make a culture shift here.
      1. The SEs are supposed to be imbedded into what we do.
   4. Action for Next Meeting: Think through before our next meeting what are the core components we want to focus on from today’s discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.