

Audit Report for Goal 2: Advance experiential learning

AUDIT COMMITTEE

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The six initiatives proposed to achieve Goal 2 Objectives are:

Initiative 1. Infuse experiential learning as a core component in all academic programs.

Initiative 2. Apply the science of learning to the learning of science

Initiative 3. Coordinate and elevate leadership studies

Initiative 4. Enhance legacy programs and create icon services and programs that reflect the changing needs and interests of today's students

Initiative 5. Enhance the co-curricular experience and value of participation

Initiative 6. Student Government Association (SGA)

Initiative 1 has made significant progress since the 2010-2011 academic year. Within this initiative, the Goal Team has gathered data to identify current programs (through open forums for faculty and students), successfully increased study abroad opportunities and student international and domestic travel. The scheduled summer workshop for Experiential Learning Development is expected to educate faculty about ways to incorporate these activities in coursework. We suggest including incentives (or recognition) for participation and assessment of the workshop. Results of the open forum should also be provided. Future steps toward developing the Undergraduate Research Center are well articulated and align with the initiative. However, the Audit Team suggests the inclusion of a concrete assessment plan (including summative evaluation) to measure progress.

Initiative 2 has made significant progress since the 2010-2011 academic year. Within the initiative, the Goal Team has acquired continued funding, expanded the SENCER model (7 courses converted, 21 identified for future conversion), measured knowledge gains in SENCER courses, enhanced visibility and campus understanding, engaged in local, regional, and national forums for SENCER learning, and disseminated research with undergraduate and graduate students. The Audit Team would suggest future goals in campus expansion of the SENCER model should engage faculty in other disciplines (besides ENVI), especially courses in Foundational Studies courses. These courses have the potential to impact a larger number and more diverse body of students. Now that baselines have been identified, actions to improve visibility and understanding of SENCER learning among students and faculty should be assessed more effectively. The Audit Team also suggests discussion of the assessment results.

Initiative 3 has made little progress since the 2010-2011 academic year. It is not clear how the consortium assist in the development of the minor. Survey data and white papers essential for initial planning are not available. Four of the five intended site visits were completed. However, results and conclusions drawn from these visits were not provided. These pieces of data are necessary to create the framework for implementation of this initiative. We believe the justification for the creation of a consortium is not adequate and maybe this initiative needs to be eliminated.

Initiative 4 is in its first year of articulation and implementation. The goal chair developed a committee with varied faculty and staff from across campus. The committee has identified 1-2 icon and legacy programs to develop or enhance during each year of the Pathway to Success. Programming will commence in Spring 2011. The Audit Team suggests an assessment plan to measure participation, satisfaction with events, and other performance outcomes be developed in conjunction with program plans.

Initiative 5 was initially articulated as an action item in Goal 2-Initiative 3, the enhancement of the co-curricular experience and value of participation. It has been realigned as Goal 2-Initiative 5. The Goal Team is awaiting the necessary software and databases to implement a trial of the co-curricular record. The Audit Team would suggest that a categorization system should be developed and reviewed by various stakeholders. Moreover, the recording/monitoring system should be designed to be accessible by the campus community who may wish to use data for diverse purposes such as recruitment, assessment, and the like.

Initiative 6 addresses the Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA should be applauded for their efforts in articulating and implementing initiative 6 which have made significant gains during the 2010-2011 academic year. The Audit Team suggests the development of an Assessment Taskforce to more measure a well-defined set of performance outcomes, including increased student participation and spirit, achieved by various programs implemented by SGA.