Indiana State University

2006 - 2007 Administrative Annual Report

General Education

Vision Statement

View/Modify Vision

The following is your vision statement loaded from previous submissions. Some administrative units, but not all, may wish to revise their vision statements based on the direction of the University toward pre-eminence. If this pertains to you, then please make changes in the box below:

Indiana State University is committed to providing students with a broad education that will develop their intellectual abilities and academic background while providing them with the skills and interests they will need to become successful professionals and engaged citizens and to lead fulfilling lives. A strong General Education program is the cornerstone of this goal, providing an essential foundation and broad academic base for students no matter what their major. In fact, General Education at ISU ideally enhances the major each student chooses. For example, Business Administration majors planning to pursue a career in international business may choose to take a course in Chinese culture and society. While the major program prepares students to meet specific professional goals, General Education exposes them to a diverse range of subjects that develop their appreciation of the fine arts, enrich their lives, and cultivate awareness of contemporary social and political realities. More importantly, General Education helps prepare students to be effective communicators, critical thinkers and informed decision makers, abilities that are important for their life roles as employees, parents, spouses, children and voters.

Year in Review

Achievements

As you have heard, increasing public awareness of Indiana State University's accomplishments is crucial to building student enrollment, influencing policy makers, and developing a place of pre-eminence in the Midwest. What do you consider to be your department's accomplishments for the 2006-07 year that will contribute to this effort? (Please list in priority order and limit to no more than 8.)

1. Completed review of General Education course inventory and recommended elimination of low enrollment/infrequently taught courses. Recommendations are to be implemented next AY. 2. Reviewed Information Technology Literacy requirement and testout procedures. Approved new ITL testout requirement, to be implemented next AY (with a pilot test Summer 2007). 3. Created a General Education Task Force to perform a full review of the General Education program.

Enrollment

What steps did you take this year to aid ISU in overcoming enrollment challenges?

The General Education Program does not function to increase enrollments directly. I, for one, doubt that students tend to select a university based on the nature and/or quality of its General Education Program. However, we are working toward developing mechanisms to assure the quality and relevance of the General Education Program. Success in this area may help increase retention.

Action Steps

Do you have any further progress you would like to report?

1. Program Review and Assessment is no longer being conducted because the procedures established are not responsive to the need to assess student learning. New procedures will be established as an outcome of the work of the General Education Task Force. 2. CTL no longer exists; it is now CIRT. The General Education Office is not actively working to develop Capstone courses at this time. Items 6 and 7 ended in 2005.

Assessment

What are two ways in which you evaluated the quality or effectiveness in your area last year? What changes did you make based on those assessments?

1. Because the program will be under review by the General Education Task Force, we determined that assessment activities this year were appropriate only in selected Basic Studies areas. Toward that end, the English Department and the General Education Office have prepared a survey to send to all instructors in General Education courses. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information about the types of writing assignments used in General Education course. Results will assist the English Department in assuring that the 100-level General Education Writing courses prepare students for the types of writing that they will be required to do in later coursework. 2. Made recommendations for elimination of courses from the inventory as a result of an assessment of the efficiency of the program. Even though quite a few courses were eliminated, efficiency did not increase greatly, because most of these courses had low enrollments or were very infrequently taught.

Quality

Quality

Please provide 1-2 suggestions to increase the ability of your department or the University to meet the criteria above.

There are no criteria listed above. Above where? Criteria for what?