

October 11, 2011

Bernie Quetchenbach
Matt Redinger

Melinda Tilton

There were no surprises thanks to the level of communication. Faculty were involved in roundtables and all groups involved were surveyed and interviewed. Faculty were also trained in the use of the TaskStream software, and financial incentives were offered.

Students moved through a pyramid of courses, beginning with the foundational core; the portal, which is like our freshman seminar; distribution; and a discipline-specific capstone. Throughout the entire process, using the TaskStream software, students could see their progress based on a rubric. The capstone course closes the loop and provides assessment of everything the student has learned in both Gen Ed and the major. As part of the portal step, six different projects are set up and instructors choose one appropriate to the discipline. These six projects have clearly defined parameters and outcomes that any faculty member can use. The entire TaskStream system, which the students love, is funded by students fees and run by one full-time and one part-time person. Students appreciate that they can sign into the TaskStream system and see exactly how they are progressing in a given course and also in their whole college career.

Ms. Tilton noted that the presentation did not give a lot of detail on courses, but she believes the students do not pick from a smorgasbord of courses in Gen Ed. It's a much more structured system and as a result, they have much clearer and more concise outcomes. The reason Nebraska changed their Gen Ed program was because the smorgasbord approach was not working for them. It was noted that it is important for students to be able to pick and choose—and perhaps flounder a bit—before deciding on their majors. However, our students have responded that they have *too many* choices in our current Gen Ed program, but no choices whatsoever may not be the solution either.

It was agreed that we do not need to completely adopt the Nebraska program, but we can pick out what we like. We don't have a mandate to update or overhaul our Gen Ed program, so we can take our time and think about this proposal.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita J. Rabe Meduna.