

**To:** Work Team 2 (WT2) File

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**From:** Christine Sellin

**Date:** March 24, 2011

**Re:** Minutes from WT2 Meeting # 4 with Doug Mason (held Weds., Mar. 23, 2011)

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**Present:** Doug Mason, J. Griffin, G. Hanrahan, P. Hanson, H. Hoang, K. Price, K. Odegard, D. Rowley, C. Sellin.

- 1.0 G. Hanrahan convened the meeting at 11:09 am.
- 2.0 Doug was asked for his insights on how best to incorporate EL into the undergraduate curriculum.
  - a. Clarify university objectives – what do you want to prepare students for in the future?
  - b. How are internal forces (campus offerings, resources, regional characteristics, “institutional flavor”, market forces), reflected in general education curriculum?
  - c. How are external forces (competitive environments, private institution, non-profit school) reflected in the general education curriculum?
  - d. What makes CLU distinct? What gives it the edge? What will make CLU stand out from other institutions?
  - e. In other words: look critically at what programs we should offer; what programs can be combined? What are our “niche-” or “value propositions”? We should strive to be ‘relevant’, but simultaneously stay true to ourselves – what is best for CLU here?
  - f. Other questions: how much do we make changes to our Gen. Ed.? How will changes be supported by faculty or resources; what is ‘saleable’ in the marketplace?
  - g. Doug noted that EL is such a broad term – that it can’t be made to fit neatly into general education or certification programs – the question is what EL plan pops out as resilient? What EL options speak to our Lutheran identity? In other words, what is the potential for EL as a concept at CLU?
- 3.0 Doug was asked for his reaction to our working EL definition. His suggested keeping it simple and non-academic; for example, change “transmission, application, or informed invention” phrase (the suggested phrase “Creative application and action” was less abstract, clearer. We will amend our EL working definition to reflect this.
- 4.0 Doug was asked regarding ADEP and EL: although he is not a specialist in this area, he thinks we might want to consider the ‘depth’ of our curriculum. Can we serve families somehow? Do we have family-oriented programming for young mothers or fathers who want degrees (example: Mount St. Mary weekend college program including travel courses designed for masters humanities programs for working parents; creative community work on weekends, involving portfolio work). Perhaps EL learning and distance learning can be combined in some way? Perhaps, we first need a focus group (ADEP students) would be useful here to see what resonates for them in an ADEP program. What are the ADEP students themselves looking for?

- 5.0 Comments and discussion further acknowledged that it is difficult to reconcile EL in general education (particularly in areas such as 'leadership', 'public service', 'civic engagement'). Some majors are inherently more applicable to EL than other disciplines. Perhaps EL could be 'scaled' to suit major coursework, more than general education coursework?
- 6.0 It was noted that Core 21 needs to be amended, in order to stay competitive in the future (even in the next five or six years this will become a competitive issue for us, it was suggested). Doug Mason suggested we look at the Wartburg general education program (as an example on how to convert a set of Gen. Ed. requirements, to something that is presented as a distinct and rich set of experiences (e.g., 'the Wartburg Plan', as opposed to 'general education requirements').
- 7.0 Instituting innovative programming into the CORE is certainly do-able. The question remains whether it can be sustained over time. In the past, innovative programs had been instituted into CLU's CORE 21 (team-teaching and "414", for example), and could not be sustained, for budget/resource reasons. We need to first 'cost out' any ideas to see which ideas are truly feasible. The cost of enhancing the CORE 21, for example, may take away from other efforts – such as the costs associated with a new building. This, Doug suggested, is what we should talk about in your Strategic planning meetings: we've done good things, but had to jettison them out at certain points; are we now in a position to sustain these initiatives? This must be a strategic choice; as such, it should be part of a strategic plan discussion/vision.
- 8.0 Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.