

Immersion Task Force minutes
October 6, 2015

Present: Bridget Grogan, Jeff Huffman, Kay Tappan, Ted Spiker, Andy Hopson

Meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes approved from first three meetings. Tappan moved, Spiker seconded. Unanimously approved.

The group will divide recommendations into two categories: College-wide and department/venue-specific.

Lengthy discussion about the proposal to create a faculty/advisory council board that supervisors of immersion opportunities would report to. It was suggested the process should be a two-way communication rather than a “reporting up” process. Including advisory council members might be too unwieldy. In lieu of a board, a more organic and consistent way of communication between immersion supervisors and faculty members could be facilitated by department chairs. The focus should be on execution rather than an overly-formal process. It was decided to recommend a once-a-semester meeting between department chairs and immersion opportunity supervisors to assess the implementation/success of recommended immersion and experiential learning opportunities. Advisory Council members could be kept informed about changes/progress and asked for input when they visit the College.

The rationale section of the current working document could be cut or moved to a separate document that would highlight the justification for said recommendations.

The following College-wide recommendations were discussed and determined to be worthy of forwarding:

- 1) Department chairs should call a once-per-semester joint meeting between faculty members and venue supervisors to help facilitate progress and provide accountability for immersion recommendations and experiential learning opportunities.
- 2) A short list of classes (1 or 2) that would offer the best opportunities to improve student performance and output within the College’s venues. These courses would not have to be required. They could provide highly-effective training for a small number of students in order to drastically improve overall venue performance. These would be “life-changing dream classes”
- 3) Expand the square footage of the INC, adding space for labs and classes where course instructors could expose students to the functions and output of both immersion venues. Students would have opportunities to rotate into the venues via once- or twice-a-semester experiences that would better prepare them for work in the venues in future semesters. These feeder labs could be located on the second floor of the College, on the roof space to the west of the INC.

Next steps: Take a look at the department-level suggestions included in the current working document. Modify or add others as task force members see fit. And then the group can determine the top two or three suggestions to be recommended in the final Immersion Task Force report.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Bridget Grogan