

Launch of Teagle Grant on Assessing Diversity Learning

October 3, 2008

Program

3:30-5:00 pm : Context and Overview of Teagle Grant

Welcome: Valerie Lehr, Dean of Academic Affairs
and Vice President of the University

- Eve Stoddard: Summary of Proposal to Teagle Foundation
- Margaret Kent Bass: History of Diversity Requirement at SLU
- Christine Zimmerman: Presentation on transcript analysis
- Kirk Fuoss: Brief overview of assessment: direct and indirect assessment

5:00-6:30 pm: Workshop on Diversity Learning Goals

6:30-7:15 pm: Dinner

7:15-8:00 pm: Coffee, Dessert, and Discussion

- Timeline for Learning Communities
- Sign up for Learning Communities
- Erin McCarthy: Alcott Lecture (October 18) and breakfast
- Erin McCarthy: Associated Colleges Conference (November 1), Kevin Hovland

Workshop on Learning Goals and Outcomes for Diversity Requirements

Participants should sit in groups of six or so colleagues. Please begin by introducing yourselves and saying why you are attending. One person should volunteer to take notes and possibly report back to the whole group.

1. Each individual should take a few minutes to jot down her/his own ideas of appropriate institutional diversity learning goals. That is, what should all St. Lawrence graduates know or be able to do in relation to “diversity”?

2. The group should take a few minutes to look over the current description and rationale for the diversity requirements. These are written in capital letters (for unknown reasons) and hence the document has come to be known as the “ALLCAPS” document. On that sheet you also have the learning goals the Assessment Committee drafted on the basis of the language in the requirement and rationale.

3. As a group compare and contrast what you wrote with each other and in relation to the current requirement. Groups should talk through the following questions:
 - Why is diversity important for liberal arts education?
 - What should all college graduates be able to know and do as a result of having studied/practiced/experienced diversity?
 - To what degree is diversity about knowledge or capabilities or values or all of the above?
 - Should all diversity courses have the same fundamental goals?

4. Be prepared to report back and join the general discussion by 5:50 pm.