

On Teaching Box Lunch Discussion

Focus on General Education

How Well Are We Helping Students Develop Familiarity With Cultures Other Than Their Own?

Tuesday, Sept. 26

12:30 - 1:30

Prairie Room, Union

Joan Hawthorne (Provost's Office)

Anne Kelsch (History)

Evelyn Labun (Nursing)

Anne Walker (Teaching and Learning)

In this session we'll hear from a group of faculty who have been doing a pilot assessment of one of our current general education goals: getting students to develop familiarity with cultures other than their own. (Some may know this as the "World Cultures" requirement.

According to group leader Joan Hawthorne,

Our intent is to describe our focus on "familiarity with cultures" as a difficult-to-assess but extremely important to understand goal for UND. We concluded that it's important to understand because the gen ed longitudinal study showed that students perceived it as both less important and having less emphasis than other goals, and a review of student transcripts showed that students received significantly less purposeful exposure to that goal than to any of the others. We developed a group interview method for eliciting direct assessment data, compiled a list of 10 questions, developed a rubric for scoring on five criteria that we believe reflect faculty intent for the familiarity with cultures goal, and conducted the interviews. We will provide a brief overview of the process, the questions, the rubrics, and our results, allowing plenty of time to answer questions that others may have and take feedback that may be useful to us in future assessment of this goal or other gen ed goals.

To register and reserve a free box lunch, call Jana Hollands at 7-4998 by noon Friday, Sept. 22.

Series co-sponsored by the Office of Instructional Development and Writing Across the Curriculum.